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Marginal Column
BY MISHA LOUVISH

WHAT does Mr. Ben Gurion mean by a "Pioneering Front?" The nation watches the master juggler as he throws the coloured balls into the air one by one—Mapam, Ahdut Ha'avoda, Hapoel Hamizrahi, Progressives. How long will he be able to keep them spinning?

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THERE is nothing out of character or out of keeping with his recorded utterances, in the latest steps of Israel's first Prime Minister. Again and again Mr. Ben Gurion has insisted that the country needs a renewed drive in the spirit of the old pioneering ideals and consistent with the needs of the day, and that such a drive must have behind it the united support and the willing cooperation of all the constructive forces in the country. In political terms this implies an understanding between all the parties represented in the Provisional Government; that is all except Herut and the Communists. In the past he has tried to create this united front in the shape of a broadly-based Coalition Government; now he has gone a step further, by proposing the establishment of a "Pioneering Front" before the elections.

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WHO is to join in this body and how is it to work? Obviously the most natural partners are the Labour parties, of which we have a large enough variety. Not counting the Communists the roll is as follows: Mapai, corresponding roughly—but only roughly — to the British Labour Party; Ahdut Ha'avoda and Mapam, representing graduated stages further to the left from the point of view of opposition to the bourgeoisie and friendship to the Soviet Union; Ha'oved Hazioni, the labour wing of the Progressives, who might be defined as a non-Socialist labour party; the General Zionist Workers, who are presumably an anti-Socialist labour party; Hapoel Hamizrahi and Poalei Agudat Israel, who stand respectively for religious and more religious labour. How many is that? — Seven, not counting the sub-groups into which some of them are divided. Mr. Ben Gurion is approaching all the parties, with the two exceptions already mentioned, but it is difficult to see how such conservative bodies as the General Zionists, the Mizrahi and Agudat Israel are to link hands in a "Pioneering Front," unless the word "pioneering" is to be deprived of some of its meaning.

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MR. Ben Gurion has denied that he is conducting negotiations for a new Government, though the complexion of the administration which will take office after the next elections may be largely determined by the results of his present endeavours. What he seems to have in mind is apparently an electoral alliance, and/or something more: a concerted effort to induce the people of Israel, and especially the youth, by force of exhortation and example, to undertake the pioneering tasks which the country requires. Even if the obvious snags in the sphere of policy can be overcome, there will be serious difficulties in implementing any electoral agreement. If the elections are held according to the present list system, we can easily picture the complicated negotiations which must precede formulation of an agreed list acceptable by so many and such a variegated partnership. If, on the other hand, the constituency system is adopted, it will be necessary to allocate seats to the different parties in an agreed proportion, an undertaking of even more bewildering complexity.

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NO doubt Mr. Ben Gurion has a plan for solving these problems. In the meantime the politicians are full of suspicion and the general public looks on in expectation and admiration. Most of us are pretty tired of the constant squabbling between all the components of our political rainbow. We don't want a dictator, and many of us still believe that our own particular party represents the best available concentration of wisdom and rectitude. But we all would like to work together and the great majority of the electors would welcome the opportunity of making a straightforward and unambiguous choice between two—or at most three—clearly formulated alternatives.

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IN the meanwhile, Mr. Sharett will be congratulated on all sides, except the Opposition of course, on having worked so valiantly and so successfully to restore the present Coalition's collective responsibility for the remainder, it will be hoped, of this Government's life.

Jerusalem, January 6.

Improved Ties With US Seen in Lodge Speech

By JESSE ZEL LURIE, Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK, Wednesday. — Israel quarters here have expressed gratification at Mr. John Cabot Lodge's clear expression yesterday in the U.N. Security Council of support of their position regarding the Bat Galim. This was taken as an indication that the climate of U.S.-Israel relations is continuing to improve although no solution is yet in sight to the basic question of satisfying Israel's security requirements.

These sources welcome the implicit support of the British statement which did not go so far as the American one, and the general support of the other Powers, which is plainly discomfiting the Egyptians. Israel sources are beginning to feel the Bat Galim test case is paying dividends.

In Washington, lower level conversations explaining Israel's position to the new man in the State Department are continuing in the friendliest spirit.

The first meeting of the Israel Ambassador, Mr. Abba Eban, and Mr. George Allen, new head of the Middle East desk, since the latter's return, is scheduled on Friday.

Mr. Eban will bid farewell to Mr. Henry Byroade at the same meeting. If some progress can be made at this level, formal meetings with the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, will be resumed.

By-Pass Sought

According to a United Press message from New York, the Western Big Three today sought to work out a quiet solution to the Suez Canal issue involving the Bat Galim and hoped to dispose of the case next week without any U.N. Security Council resolution.

Informed sources told U.P. the Council would meet next Wednesday.

British, American, and French diplomats were in consultation with Israel and Egyptian officials on the case. It was understood the Western Powers hoped to work out a plan for the release of the ship which would not involve the issue of free passage through the Canal, but which would extend the present mood of conciliation so that future Suez Canal disputes would not arise.

The Council's disposition of the case is expected to come in the form of a summation of the situation by the President, Mr. Leslie Knox Munro, of New Zealand, which would express the "consensus of the Council" on the manner of the Bat Galim settlement. This system has been used before in Arab-Israel cases to by-pass a resolution which might stir animosity between the parties rather than promote a solution.

Herut: Send Ships Through Red Sea

An alternative scheme for an Israel vessel to attempt to make its way to Eilat, and not to Suez, that had been proposed by Herut was described in the Knesset yesterday by Mr. H. Landau, in a motion for a debate on the Bat Galim.

The motion was rejected, Mr. M. Sharett, as Foreign Minister, telling the Knesset that the entire matter was the subject of continuous study in the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

Mr. Landau said that his Party had always asked that ships flying the Israel flag should be sent through the Red Sea to Eilat, and if they met Egyptian opposition they should be given aerial defence. Israel air power was quite sufficient to do this. Once passage to Eilat was assured, this might also open the Canal to Israel vessels.

Instead, a vessel had been sent to Suez in an attempt to break the blockade. The Government had known that Egypt would try to stop it. In reply, Israel had only appealed to the U.N., though there was already Security Council ruling of 1951 ordering Egypt to permit the passage of Israel vessels which Egypt had ignored.

"What did you do in reply to Egypt's act of piracy? (Mr. Landau asked). Even in accordance with the internationally recognized Law of Retortion we were entitled to retaliate by

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

ABRAMOV CALLS ON SHARETT IN CAPITAL

The Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Alexander Abramov, yesterday morning called on the Prime Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, in his Jerusalem office. The meeting was held at Mr. Abramov's request.

Israel Wins First Stage—'Al Ahram'

"Israel has won the first stage of her test case in the U.N. Security Council on whether Israel ships will be permitted to pass through the Suez Canal," according to the U.N. correspondent of "Al Ahram," the Cairo daily.

Recalling that the representatives of the three Western Powers supported the Israel contention that her ships should pass through the Canal, the correspondent said, "There was much to interpret from the statements of America, France and particularly Britain... They were quick to praise Egypt, as 'The New York Times' puts it this morning, for the "conciliatory attitude they said Egypt had shown by the release of the crew."

The correspondent went on to say, "The American statement was the most carefully prepared, and was delivered by Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, who spoke of resolutions on Palestine in the plural and did not single out the resolution of 1951 on the Suez. Mr. Lodge's statement displeased the Zionists, and it was not in harmony with the strong anti-Egyptian statements of Britain and France.

Lodge Quoted

"Perhaps the most significant sentence of Mr. Lodge's statement was the view he developed on the Palestine problem and the incidents and hostilities.

"He said, 'These incidents have caused the United Nations great concern. Confronted with the danger of new hostilities, a series of resolutions has been adopted which has come to make up United Nations jurisprudence on the Palestine question. Each of these resolutions, together with the General Armistice Agreement, has become an essential link in the slow process of building enduring peaceful relations between the countries of the Near East.

"And the most important sentence," continues the "Al Ahram" correspondent, "is the next, in which he (Mr. Lodge) stated, 'None of them can be disregarded without imperilling the validity and the enforcement of the others.'

"Mr. Lodge said, 'Respect for each of them is essential if the tensions that continue to divide the peoples of the area are finally to be removed'."

The "Al Ahram" dispatch goes on to say, "Informed diplomatic sources believe that there will be little action taken on the Bat Galim incident, and there seems to be little chance of a resolution from the Western Powers. The silence of the Soviet delegate, Mr. Arkady Sobolev, was significant."

Lutfi Proposal On Ship Ruled Out

NEW YORK, Wednesday (Reuter). — An Israel Delegation spokesman commented last night on the suggestion of the Egyptian delegate Omar Lutfi that the question of the disposal of the Israel freighter, Bat Galim, be handed over to a sub-commission of the Mixed Armistice Commission.

The spokesman said "It is evident that the proposal put forward by Mr. Lutfi in its present form does not carry us any further.

"Indeed it does not appear to be susceptible of implementation because the MAC cannot discuss the release of the Bat Galim separately from its crew for the same reason that it refused to take part in the release of the crew separately from the ship, namely, that it cannot be involved in a clear evasion of the 1951 resolution of the Security Council."

Bat Galim Crew Feted in Haifa

Jerusalem Post Bureau

HAIFA, Wednesday. — "We, of Haifa, are especially privileged and proud to welcome you back, since many of you are residents of our city," Mayor Abba Khoushy told the ten crew members of the Bat Galim at a festive dinner here tonight, marking their release from an Egyptian prison last Saturday.

At the dinner which was given by the National Seamen's Union, the crew members were presented with Jewish National Fund tree certificates by the Zim Company.

Mr. Z. Yehiely, of Zim, and Mr. Mordechai Namir, Secretary-General of the Histadrut, welcomed the Bat Galim crew members.

Following the banquet, the Chairman, Mr. Eliezer Suettenfeld, read greetings to the crew members from the Minister of Communication, Mr. Joseph Saphir; the Minister of Finance, Mr. Levi Eshkol; the Minister of Labour, Mrs. Golda Myerson; the Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Walter Eytan, and the Mayor of Tel Aviv, Mr. Haim Levanon.

State Housing To Be Limited To Unsettled Areas

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

In future, no housing will be built by the Government for immigrants except north of Nahariya and south of Gedera. "This is a free country, and if they wish to come to the settled sections they are as free to do so as everybody else, but it must be at their own expense. The Government will give them housing only where development is needed," Mrs. Golda Meyerson the Minister of Labour said yesterday in reply to a motion for a debate on the affect of the recent floods on immigrant housing asked by Dr. A. Berman (Communist), and supported by Mr. Y. Riftin (Mapam), who said that he considered that after a catastrophe of this kind the Government should have submitted a report on the position and the relief work done on its own initiative.

Two ministers replied, Mrs. Meyerson, for the Ministry of Labour, and Mr. I. Rokach, for the Interior Ministry. The Knesset voted to pass the discussion to the committee concerned.

Housing Position Better

Mrs. Meyerson said that as regards new immigrants the housing position was much improved. During the past year 7,000 families were moved to permanent houses from tin and sacking huts (and a similar number would be moved next year), and new arrivals had gone straight into houses in agricultural and development areas. She said that when the 3,000 units due to be started next April were ready the only immigrants left without proper houses would be about 4,000 families whose breadwinners were under 35, who were being offered no government-sponsored housing except in development areas.

During the past year, 130,000 persons have been moved from ma'barot, leaving only 70,000 now. Apart from emergency housing, 16,000 wooden huts are in use, but these will have to remain for the time being, Mrs. Meyerson said.

On the whole the new housing had stood up well to the storms. She protested against the attitude of some sections of the press, "which take a curious pleasure in seeking out weak points without noting the good sides as well. I think that 'if four flats in a group of 500 leaked after these storms, some mention might have been made by the busy reporter of the 496 flats that did not leak." She noted that a good deal of the suffering had occurred in the older Tel Aviv suburbs which were not the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour.

North, South Unscathed

Mr. Rokach, in a general report, said that the northern area of Israel reported no damage, and that in the southern area the *ma'bara* had remained comparatively unscathed — in fact, the Beersheba and Migdal Ashkelon *ma'barot* had both offered temporary homes to families whose houses in town had collapsed.

In the central area, an emergency office was set up to rush aid to flood victims, mainly in the Rehovot and Ramle districts. Several villages near Kfar Saba were cut off by the floods, and help was sent to them by means of boats supplied by the Army. Most of the emergency work was carried out by the Army and Police. By December 30 the water had subsided and all families were returning to their homes.

In Tel Aviv itself, work was carried out by the Municipality. About 70 families had to be evacuated from Hatikva quarter. Altogether about 800 persons were evacuated in the entire period, and supplied with hot food, by the Municipality, while blankets and mattresses were provided by the Jewish Agency and women's organizations. Special care was paid to infants, and 1,500 items of childrens' clothing were distributed.

Stocks on Wall Street Take a Nose-Dive

NEW YORK, Wednesday (UP). Profit-taking hit the stock market a smashing blow in the last hour of trading today just about the time every one had decided a 20 per cent margin hike had been taken in stride.

Prices crumpled in their widest decline and tickers ran farther behind than in any session since the ones immediately following the outbreak of the Korean War in mid-1950.

Net losses in some of the more volatile issues ranged to more than $10 a share. Steels were driven down sharply. All sections joined the decline.

The immediate cause of the selling — the excuse — was the Federal Reserve System's edict raising margins from 50 per cent to 60 per cent. First reaction to that rise was a modest decline on ticker lateness followed by a substantial rally from the lows.

New Jordan Move Stops Fortnightly Convoy to Scopus

The regular fortnightly convoy which had been due to go up to Mt. Scopus yesterday morning, did not proceed as a result of a sudden demand by the Jordanians, which is without precedent according to the present arrangements, the Army spokesman announced.

When the convoy arrived at Mandelbaum Gate, the Jordanians demanded the right to search the convoy and to examine the contents of several types of conserves that were being sent as supplies to the guards on Scopus. In view of Israel's opposition to this demand, the Jordanians modified their stand somewhat, and insisted on examining the tins of Israel produce only.

The Israel delegate to the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission rejected any change in the present system, and the existing arrangements for the convoy, and when the U.N. observers submitted to the pressure of the Jordanians, the convoy did not go up.

Food for some 120 people for 15 days is taken up by the convoy, together with 33 civilians. Half the police relief of 45 men, and guard is replaced each fortnight.

84th Congress Opens On Harmony Note

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (Reuter). — Opposition Democrats formally took over the reins in the new 84th Congress today amid assurances of Party leaders that they would not "harass" President Eisenhower and his Republican administration.

The 435 members of the House of Representatives and the 96 Senators thronged into the branches of Government for the opening-day formalities. The Democrats with the support of the only independent in Congress, Senator Wayne Morse, of Oregon, hold only a two-vote edge in the Senate. In the House they have a 29-seat majority.

One of President Eisenhower's key proposals — liberalization of the foreign trade laws — got top billing in the flood of bills introduced in the House in the first hour.

New members were sworn in, Congressional officers were elected and after eulogies of members who died since the last session and the traditional notification to the White House that Congress was in session the members adjourned until tomorrow.

They are to meet in a joint session to hear President Eisenhower deliver in person his State of the Union message which traditionally starts legislative activity by outlining the measures he will seek from Congress to implement the nation's foreign and domestic policies.

The Democrats have offered their cooperation in the foreign policy and national defence fields, but they have made it clear that trouble lies ahead for many of the President's domestic recommendations.

CABINET DISCUSSES DRAFT BUDGET

The Cabinet yesterday continued its discussion of the draft budget for 1955-56, which is to be concluded at its next session, it was officially announced.

Nasser Weighs Sentences Of 10 Jews Tried as Spies

'Severest Punishment' Demanded

The sentences passed on the 10 Jews being tried in Cairo as spies will not be announced until they are approved by the Military Governor-General, Premier Gamal Abdul Nasser, the Near East Broadcasting Station reported yesterday. The trial was concluded yesterday.

The State Attorney, Fakhri Abdul Nabi, in his summation, demanded that the high military court pronounce the "severest punishment" on all defendants.

He said, "This court is not judging these persons as Jews. The Jews of Egypt are sons of the country. This court is judging the persons who spied on Egypt in the interest of Israel. They should not have committed this crime against a nation which sheltered them."

Abdul Nabi started the second day of the prosecution's summation by presenting to the court a letter addressed by the Iraqi Embassy in Cairo to the Egyptian Government in which it was stated that the deceased Max Bennet had headed a Zionist spy network in Middle East countries. He then recapitulated the confessions allegedly made by Dr. Moshe Marzouk during the enquiry.

Claims Aid to Israel

The prosecutor said that the "organization's aim to help Israel in time of war — could only be done at the expense of Egypt and the Arab states. It fostered the aggressive designs of Israel." He added that Dr. Marzouk headed the organization's cell in Cairo and participated in its "criminal pact."

He summed up the case against Victor Levi, Philip Natanson, and Robert Dassan, and said that they had confessed their roles in the fires in Cairo and Alexandria cinemas, U.S.I.S. libraries, post offices and the Cairo railway station.

Victorine Nino, he continued, had admitted that she was the liaison officer between the Cairo and Alexandria units. He added that Samuel Azzar had acknowledged that he was financing the organization. The prosecutor claimed that the confessions allegedly made by each defendant were confirmed by those of all the other nine defendants.

(UP, NEABS)

EDEN TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST

LONDON, Wednesday (UP). — The Foreign Secretary, Sir Anthony Eden, will make a diplomatic tour of his trip to the Bangkok SEATO conference on February 23, it was announced today.

Sir Anthony, whose last big journey around the capitals of Europe resulted in the Western European Union plan, will visit a number of countries and will pass through the Middle East, it was revealed.

Asked if he would stop in Peking, the spokesman at the Foreign Office press conference declined to specify and left the itinerary vague. Informed sources, however, stated that he would not visit China.

It was understood that one of Sir Anthony's stops would be New Delhi. Unconfirmed reports said that he might also visit Cairo.

Nicosia Court Voids Ban on Assembling

By IRIS K. RUSSELL
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NICOSIA, Wednesday. — Judge Lefkios Zenon, President of the Nicosia District Court, declared today that the proclamation issued by the District Commissioner, Mr. W.M. Clemens, on December 19 prohibiting assemblies of more than five persons, had no legal validity.

Mr. Zenon, who was trying 23 Cypriot Greek youths who had participated in the disturbances that day, then dismissed the first count against the accused, saying that they could not charged, as the law under which the warning was made referred to assemblies at funerals, weddings, and circumcisions only. In order to prohibit general assemblies, Mr. Zenon explained, it is necessary for the Governor to issue a warning.

Seven Accused Dismissed

He then dismissed seven of the accused stating that there was no case against them, and another five on the grounds of insufficient evidence. The remaining 11 were fined £5 each and were bound over in the sum of £50 for two years.

The demonstrations by a large number of Cypriot Greek youths took place in Nicosia and Limassol on December 18 and 19 following the U.N. decision to shelve for the present Greece's claim for the right of self-determination for Cyprus.

Meanwhile, Renos Pouyoukas, 19-year-old Cypriot, who was wounded when British troops opened fire on rioters in Limassol on December 18, was flown to Britain today, where he will be treated at the Edinburgh Hospital for War Paralytics. Pouyoukas who was wounded in the lung and spine, has been paralyzed since the incident. The cost of transport and treatment is being borne by he Cyprus Government.

Another young man wounded by gunshots during the Limassol riots is seriously ill in a Cyprus clinic.

Sacked as 'Security Risk,' Official Cleared and Given High FOA Job

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (UP). — Mr. Wolf Ladejinsky, former Agricultural Attache in Tokyo who was dismissed by the Agriculture Department as a security risk, today was appointed to aid the Foreign Operations Administration's land reform programme in Vietnam.

The Foreign Operations Director, Mr. Harold E. Stassen, said that his agency had reviewed Mr. Ladejinsky's security file and had "found him eligible for certification for security and loyalty." The Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Ezra T. Benson, has expressed his satisfaction at the new appointment.

The appointment of Mr. Ladejinsky, a Russian-born Jew who once worked for Amtorg, the Soviet trade agency, prior to his arrival in the U.S. about 30 years ago, came after the dispute had reached the White House. It is said he still has relatives in Russia.

A letter from a New York resident to Mr. Benson, which was released for publication by his assistant caused a heavy protest from Jewish groups that it was anti-Semitic. The letter was cited as "a classic" defence of Mr. Benson's position in dismissing the agricultural reform expert. Later, Mr. Benson admitted that releasing the letter was "a mistake."

The Agriculture Secretary saw a group of Jewish leaders yesterday, who protested to him about publication of the letter. He had told them that anti-Semitism was "abhorrent" to him and had played no part in Mr. Ladejinsky's removal from his Tokyo post.

Mr. Ladejinsky is expected to assume his new duties at the critical task of supervising land reform in Indo-China almost immediately in view of the attempt to counteract Communist influence there before the 1956 elections for unification of Vietnam. He won acclaim for his post-war land reform work in Japan under Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, a critic of Mr. Benson in the case, praised the F.O.A. action as a "vindication" for Mr. Ladejinsky, and proof that the claims asserting he was a security risk were "a lot of baloney." He said that a Congressional investigation should still be made to find some system to protect the individual in order to avert such "personal tragedies" as in the Ladejinsky case.

Saudi Arabia Puts Tunisia Up to UN

UNITED NATIONS, Wednesday — Saudi Arabia put the case of Algeria before the United Nations Security Council today as a "grave situation" likely to endanger world peace and security.

Saudi Arabian Ambassador Sheikh Asad el-Fakih said he would present a formal request for a Council meeting on the matter "at any moment."

The primary objective in raising the case, he said, was to seek a cease-fire in the French North African territory. His letter to the Council President was accompanied by an explanatory note which declared, "The government and people of my country have for long watched with profound anxiety the French attempt to obliterate the national culture and religious characteristics of Algeria."

Some U.N. observers commented that this amounted almost to a charge of genocide against France.

Informed sources said they did not expect the Algerian case to get support from any Council members except the Soviet Union and Iran.

Saudi Initiative 'Absurd'

A French spokesman called the Saudi Arabian initiative "absurd." A United States spokesman said the action appeared to be "untimely." Britain, Belgium, Turkey and New Zealand were counted as definitely opposed to any Council consideration on the matter on grounds of competence.

A French spokesman said that the French delegation would not expect the Council to devote much time to considering placing it on the agenda since it was considered out of the question that the move could get required majority approval.

The spokesman said that "to involve the United Nations in Algeria is out of the question and any such move would be a clear violation of the powers of domestic jurisdiction." *(UP, Reuter)*

French Cabinet Wants New Electoral System

PARIS, Wednesday (UP).—The Cabinet approved final plans today for Premier Pierre Mendes-France's big diplomatic mission to Italy and Germany as Foreign Minister and then in an explosive domestic move decided to change the entire electoral system of France.

In a meeting lasting more than four hours on the eve of the Premier's departure tomorrow for a few days' rest, the Cabinet:

(1) Heard a long report from the Premier on the vital international conferences he will have with Italian leaders and with West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

(2) Unanimously decided to change from a proportional representation electoral system back to the old district system.

(3) Heard reports from Minister for Tunisian and Moroccan Affairs Christian Fouchet on home rule negotiations for Tunisia and from Interior Minister Francois Mitterand on reforms in Algeria.

In Bonn, Dr. Adenauer announced he will meet M. Mendes-France at Baden Baden for one or two days beginning on January 14 or 15 on the French Premier's way back from Italy.

UN Chief Has First Meeting With Chou

HONG KONG Wednesday (Reuter). — The U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, arrived in Peking by air today for his talks on the fate of 11 imprisoned American airmen. Within two hours he met the Premier, Mr. Chou En-lai.

The first formal meeting between Mr. Hammarskjold and the Premier on the issue of the American airmen and other U.N. personnel detained by the Chinese will be held tomorrow, according to a cable received at U.N. Headquarters in New York today.

Informal Call

The cable from Mr. Hammarskjold's executive assistant, Mr. Per Lind, said that after a private luncheon for the whole party given by the Swedish Ambassador today the Secretary-General, accompanied by Mr. Ahmed Bokhari, of Pakistan; Prof. Waldock, of Britain, and Mr. Lind paid a courtesy call on Mr. Chou.

The call was followed by a reception given in honour of the Secretary-General at the Palace of the Purple Light, the reception building of the Prime Minister's residence. Members of the Government attended the reception, the message said.

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To the Master and Crew of the s.s. Etrog on their return from the Far East :

We greet the pioneers in a sea lane through which theirs was the first Israel ship to sail.

National Seamen's Union

SUICIDE GAMBLE
Collisions between vehicles and trains occur on level crossings and 9 out of every 10 are *fatal for the vehicle's occupants.*
Don't gamble with your life —
Don't compete with a train! Better wait — than never ! !
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Tender No. 2/55
FOR THE SALE OF PLOTS IN HAIFA

1. Plots known under Block [illegible], Parcel [illegible], measuring [illegible] sq.m. totally, are hereby offered for sale.
2. The above plots are situated in the vicinity of Central Mt. Carmel, on the slopes of Rehov Yefei Nof, near a paved road; water and electricity system on site. The authorised rate of building for all storeys is 30%.
3. The Development Authority will give priority to offers for all the plots together.
4. Tenders must be submitted in closed envelopes on which are indicated Block and Parcel numbers, and should be deposited in the Tender Box of the offices of the Development Authority, Northern District, Sales and Development Section, 13 Ha'atzmaut Road, Haifa. Additional information may also be obtained at the above address.
5. Bids should be submitted not later than February 6, 1955, 12 noon.
6. The Development Authority is not bound to accept the highest or any offer.

DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Tender No. 1/55
FOR THE SALE OF PLOTS IN HAIFA

1. Plots known under Block Number [illegible], Parcels [illegible]; Block Number [illegible], Parcels [illegible], on an area totalling [illegible] sq.m., are hereby offered for sale.
2. The above plots are situated in the vicinity of Central Mt. Carmel on the slopes of Rehov Yefei Nof. The authorised rate of building is 30% for all storeys. However, this percentage might be raised to [illegible] after Town-Planning blueprints have been drawn up for the whole area.
3. The Development Authority will give priority to offers for all the plots together.
4. Tenders must be submitted in closed envelopes on which are indicated Block and Parcel numbers, and should be deposited in the Tender Box of the offices of the Development Authority, Northern District, Sales and Development Section, 13 Ha'atzmaut Road, Haifa. Additional information may also be obtained at the above address.
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DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Social & Personal

President and Mrs. Itzhak Ben-Zvi had tea with the Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Herzog yesterday. The President received Mr. S. Arazi yesterday, who put a number of suggestions to him in connection with the forthcoming Independence Day celebrations.

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Mrs. Rahel Ben-Zvi visited the Sakiya "A" and Hiriya ma'barot yesterday and inspected the condition of the settlers following the recent floods.

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Mr. David Ben Gurion, accompanied by the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Y. Sahar, and the Commander of the Border Police in the North, yesterday visited frontier police posts, new settlements and iron ore mines in the Naphtali Hills.

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M. Bertrand de la Sabliere, French Consul-General in Jerusalem, left on Tuesday for Beirut to take up his post as Deputy Director of the UNRWA. M. Patrice de Beauvais will act as Consul-General.

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Mr. I. Kariv, Mayor of Jerusalem, and Mr. E. Eliachar, Deputy Mayor, yesterday paid a return visit to the U.N. Truce Supervision Headquarters where they were received by the Chief of Staff, General E. L. M. Burns, M. Henri Vigier, and Lt. Colonel David Ely.

•

Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P. Chairman of the British Labour Party Executive, and Mr. James Griffiths, M.P. Member of the Executive were the luncheon guests of the Minister of Health, Mr. Joseph Serlin, at the King David Hotel yesterday. Among those present were the Minister of Interior, Mr. Israel Rokach, senior officials of the Ministry of Health and several physicians. Dr. Summerskill and Mr. Griffiths called on the Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, Dr. Giora Josephthal.

A reception in honour of Dr. Summerskill was held in Jerusalem on Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. A. Philipp, Chairman of the University Women's Association.

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The Governor of the Bank of Israel and Mrs. Horowitz gave a reception at their home in Katamon, Jerusalem, last night for Mr. Richard Crossman, M.P. and Mrs. Crossman.

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ARRIVALS: Mr. Asher Levitzky, from a six-week lecture tour of the U.S., on behalf of Israel Bonds, and private business in Europe (by TWA); Mr. I. Weiss, manager of the Zurich branch of the Bank Leumi, for a short visit (by TWA); Mr. Charles Gutwirth, Vice-President of the Ampal-American Israel Corporation, for a three-week visit (by BOAC).

•

The U.S. Cultural Attache, Mr. Thomas McGrail, will speak on "Cultural Life in America" at the Jerusalem YMCA at 8.30 tonight. The lecture will be the first in a fortnightly series organised by the YMCA in cooperation with foreign embassies, local and foreign cultural institutions and individual lecturers.

•

Professor Leo Strauss, Guest Professor in Philosophy and Political Theory at the Hebrew University, will deliver a lecture (in English) on "Modern Solutions" in a series called "What is Political Philosophy?," tonight at 8.30 in Room No. 72, Ratisbonne Building. This is the last of three lectures by Professor Strauss, dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. J. L. Magnes.

•

New members will be inducted and business matters discussed at today's luncheon meeting of the Tel Aviv Rotary-Jaffa Club at the Z.O.A. House at 1.15 p.m.

•

Mr. Hanan Schneider, manager of The Farmers' Company of Israel Ltd., has left for Europe by El Al.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR IRAQ IMMIGRANTS

RAMAT GAN, Wednesday. — A vocational training centre for immigrants from Iraq was opened in a three-room dwelling here today. Mr. Yehezkiel Sofer, on behalf of the "Iraqi Jews' Enterprises in Israel," said that a wealthy member of the Association had contributed the equipment — imported from Switzerland and Britain — while the Ministry of Labour will provide instructors. The premises were made available by the Municipality.

The new centre's first venture will be to teach dressmaking to 18 young women.

ON THE AIR

TEL AVIV: 28.1 49.9 & 427 M. HAIFA: 349 M.

FIRST PROGRAMME
427, 349, 28.1 & 49.9 M.

NEWS: Hebrew 7 a.m., 1.30, 6.00, 8.15, 9.30 and 11.00 p.m. Arabic Programme (including News): 8 a.m., 2.15 & 6.30 p.m.

6.30 a.m. Service. 6.35 Exercise. 6.45 Musical Clock (R). 7.15 Melodies (R). 8.00 Close Down.

12.00 N. Programme for Factory Workers (Haifa). 12.30 Housewives' Corner. 12.50 Requests (R). 1.50 Opera (R). 2.30 Close Down.

4.00 p.m. This and That. 4.30 Light Music (T.A.). 4.30 Where To Go (Jerusalem). 5.30 Musical Miniature (R). 5.30 Child's Corner. 7.00 Concert Hall: Overture "I Traci Amanti" (Cimarosa); Concerto for two Harpsichords and Orchestra (Bach); Ballet Suite "Cephale et Procris" (Gretry). 7.45 From the World of Music. 8.00 Press Conference. 8.30 Bible Reading. 8.45 The Knesset and its Committees. 9.00 Piano Recital: Galilah Yesraeli-Rivlin. 9.45 Variety Programme. 10.15 Kol Yisrael Orchestra. Conductor Shabtai Petrushka. Soloist: Mitzi Locker: Tunes from Operettas and Films. 10.45 Night Music. 11.05 Close Down.

SECOND PROGRAMME
[illegible] M.

English News: 1.45 p.m., 10.15 p.m. French News: 2.00 p.m.

IMMIGRANTS' HOUR: 6.15 p.m. Programme for Yemenites. 6.30 French. 7.15 Ladino. 7.30 Yiddish. 8.00 Close Down. 8.45 Hungarian. 9.00 Rumanian. 9.15 Close Down.

KOL ZION LAGOLA: (30.8 M.): 11.15 p.m. News. Newsreel. 11.35 "Genesis" Works by Tansman, Milhaud, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Toch & Schoenberg.

ARMY PROGRAMME ([illegible] M.): 6.30 Opening. 6.35 Programme. 7.00 Songs. 7.30 Among the Flags. 7.45 Quiz. 8.30 News. 8.45 Classical Request Programme: Violin Concerto (Beethoven). 9.30 Dance Music. 10.30 Close Down.

U.S.A. HEBREW BROADCASTS: ([illegible] M.): [illegible] p.m. News, [illegible] Music & Prose.

LAW REPORT

The Jerusalem Post January 6, 1955

In the Supreme Court Sitting as Court of Civil Appeal

Before Justices Silberg, Goitein and Berinson.

Ali Yula Mirza, Appellant, v. Avraham Binkovski, Respondent (C.A. 131/53).

Non-Absentee Property Must Be Vacated

The Supreme Court allowed an appeal against a judgment of the Haifa District Court sitting as a Court of Appeal, given on November 24, 1952.

Ali Mirza who is not, and never was, an absentee, is the co-owner of certain property in Haifa which has been occupied since the summer of 1948 by Avraham Binkovski. In 1949, the appellant and the other co-owners applied to the Magistrate's Court for an eviction order against the respondent, who pleaded that he was protected by Regulation 17 of the Emergency ((Absentees' Property)) Regulations, 1948, which states that every transaction between the Custodian and another in connection with property which the Custodian thought at the time of the transaction to be vested in him, shall not be voided even if it be proved that at that time the property was in fact not vested property. "Vested property" is defined as property belonging to absentees.

The Magistrate held that Binkovski had signed a contract for a year with the Controller of Absentees' Property in February 1949 on the mistaken assumption that the property was absentees' property and that therefore he was protected by Regulation 17.

After this contract had expired, Mirza applied again to the Magistrate's Court for an eviction order and was again turned down, this time on the grounds of *res judicata* (case already decided). He appealed to the Haifa District Court, composed of Judges Landau, Tovbin and Schall, which in three separate judgments dismissed the appeal.

Mirza thereupon appealed to the Supreme Court. Mr. Yosef Levi appeared for the appellant, Mr. Yoel Salomon for the respondent.

Judgment

The Supreme Court delivered its decision in two separate judgments.

Justice Goitein, with whom Justice Berinson concurred, dismissed the argument of *res judicata*, pointing out that the first case before the Magistrate's Court had been in connection with the contract between Binkovski and the Controller, whereas the second had been in connection with the period after the expiry of the contract, when Binkovski claimed to be a statutory tenant.

The Justice then considered the main problem before the court: whether the respondent, as a result of a contract of lease with the Controller who had been under the mistaken impression that the property leased was vested in him, was protected by the Rent Restrictions Ordinance when the contract expired. Justice Goitein said that he would have thought the answer to be very clearly in the negative were it not for the fact that three learned judges of the District Court had come to the opposite conclusion. He therefore felt it incumbent upon himself to deal thoroughly with the correct interpretation of the Absentees' Property Law, 1950, on which the respondent's arguments had been based.

The District Court had, in brief, held that once the Controller had carried out a transaction with the respondent and it were afterwards proved that the property which was the object of the transaction had not been vested in him, then the Controller had to hand the property back to the rightful owner, in accordance with section 17 and 18 of the above law, but it would still be subject to the encumbrance imposed upon it by reason of the transaction. Justice Goitein went on to indicate why and where he disagreed with this view.

Section 18 provides for the return of property wrongly thought to have been vested in the Custodian to its rightful owners, subject to the provisions of section 17, which, in turn, following closely in the footsteps of Regulation 17 (above) lays down that every transaction carried out in good faith between the Custodian and another on the presumption that the property was vested property "shall not be voided and shall remain valid" even if it be subsequently proved that the property was not vested property.

Pointing out that section 17 of the law and Regulation 17 of the Emergency Regulations were contrary to all accepted principles of law as practised by civilised states, Justice Goitein explained that section 17 had been introduced in order to regularise a situation which had arisen in the War of Liberation when new immigrants had been hastily housed in property belonging to Arabs who had fled the country or who were thought to have fled, with the result that mistakes were made in connection with the real ownership of the property. The purpose of the section was, therefore, to give a temporary aura of legality to illegal acts, but it was never the intention of the legislator to legalise transactions which did not come within the scope of section 17. Since this section was an exception to the accepted rules of law, it should be interpreted strictly and should not be considered to include lease.

In considering the criteria necessary before an occupier of absentees' property could claim the protection of the Rent Restrictions Ordinances, Justice Goitein pointed out that section 12 (a) of the law provided that only occupiers of such property which complied with the provisions of the Rent Restrictions Ordinances and was vested in the Custodian were protected. But since, in the present case, the property was not absentees' property and therefore not vested in the Custodian, and since the contract which the occupier had signed had been with someone who was not the owner of the property, and was therefore not a contract of lease, neither of the required criteria was forthcoming.

Explaining the significance of the words "subject to the provisions of section 17" in section 18, Justice Goitein stated that they meant, in the present case, that the contract between the respondent and the Controller remained valid until its expiry, but did not give the occupier any rights beyond that. In other words, Mr. Binkovski was a licensee who was entitled to occupy the property of the appellant for as long as his agreement with the Controller existed, but he was not a licensee who was protected by the Rent Restriction Ordinances after the expiry of his contract.

Limits of Legal Fiction

Justice Silberg, in a separate judgment, said that section 17 was contrary to the legal axiom that no one may transfer more rights than those which he possesses himself, and that it therefore demanded strictly limited application. He then pointed out that the legislator had not intended to introduce a legal fiction into this provision. In common with every other legislative body in the world, the Israel legislator was not averse to using legal fictions when the occasion arose, its favourite terminology being: "will be regarded as if," with occasional variations; this point Justice Silberg proved with a series of examples chosen at random from the laws of Israel. Such being the case, why should the legislator not have used his favourite legal fiction in the case of section 17, instead of providing that the transactions "shall not be voided but shall remain valid, etc."

The answer to this was, Justice Silberg said, that the intention was not to give those transactions which were based on a mistaken premise the stamp of permanent legality by declaring that the property should be regarded as if it were vested in the Custodian; it was merely intended to do the minimum required in order to give a temporary mantle of legality to these transactions for the limited period during which they were valid.

Appeal allowed and eviction order against the respondent issued.

Judgment given on January 4, 1955.

TAV MAGEN CALLED TAX ON RESTAURANTS

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — The opposition of restaurant owners to Tav Magen rates was explained by their delegates to the Minister of Interior on Monday, it was announced here today.

The restaurateurs claim that many customers refuse to pay the five per cent tax, which is added to the price of the meal and is intended to cover the expenses of social welfare work of municipalities. The Tav Magen had actually become an extra tax on the restaurateurs, they said.

An inquiry committee will be set up by the Ministry, the delegates were told.

Where to go

JERUSALEM

★ Exhibitions:—

"Conquest of the Desert" permanent exhibition at the former Israel pavilion of the International "Conquest of the Desert" Exhibition, 10-1, 4-6 p.m.

Drawings by Yehuda Sacon and Glass Paintings by Deborah Blumenthal, Nora Studio Art Gallery, 9 Ben Maimon Avenue, Rehavia (10-1; 3-6).

Department of Antiquities, special exhibition: Excavations of a Cana'anite Temple on the seashore of Nahariya (XVIIIth-XVIth centuries B.C.E.), 33 Rehov Shlomo Hamelech. Open 9-1

Sculptures by Benno Schotz. Also "The Satirical, Fantastic and Tragic in Graphic Art, from Goya to Picasso" and African Folk Art. Exhibit of the Month: Max Liebermann: Prof. Hermann Cohen, 9-1, 3-5. Bezalel Museum.

Paintings by [illegible]; Artists House, 10-1, 4-6.

★ Tours:—

Hebrew University conducted tour new Administration Building, King George Ave., opposite Terra Sancta, 10 a.m.

★ Library:—

American Library and Reading Room, U.S. Consulate, Mamilla Rd. Entrance free, 9-1, 3-6

★ Theatre:—

"Hedva and I", Habimah, Edison, 9 p.m.

TEL AVIV

★ Exhibitions:—

1) Jacob Wexler, [illegible] paintings, 1954, 2) Drawings by Masters of the Italian Renaissance (reproductions). Open daily 10-4; Fridays, Saturdays 10-1; Sundays 4-10 p.m. — Tel Aviv Museum.

★ Concert:—

Bach's "Magnificat" and Mozart's Requiem, recorded (high fidelity) concert, Beit Lessin, 8.30 p.m.

★ Theatre: —

Do-Re-Mi, "Rose from Istanbul," Ohel Shem, 9 p.m.

Habimah, "The Caine Mutiny", Habimah, 9 p.m. Performance for Civil Servants.

"Casablan", Chamber Theatre, Mograbi, 9 p.m.

RAMAT GAN

★ Circus: —

Circus Revue, 8.30 p.m.

TIBERIAS

★ Theatre:—

"Pantomime", Chamber Theatre, 2 Performances.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

JERUSALEM: Ora, 37 King George, [illegible]. Oplatka, Mahane Yehuda, 4021. TEL AVIV: Kohlberg, 22 Allenby, [illegible]. Greenberg, 46 King George, [illegible]. Merkaz Hatnufah, 223 Ben Yehuda, [illegible]. Reitblatt, 19 Nahlat Binyamin. Baruch, Hatikva Qr., [illegible]. JAFFA: Givat Aliya, 97 Rehov 4. RAMAT GAN: [illegible], 19 Herzl. [illegible] HAIFA: [illegible]. NAHARIYA: [illegible]. SAFAD: [illegible].

EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

JERUSALEM: Dr. Romanov, 11 Arlosoroff, [illegible]. Dr. Davis, 9 Shlomo Molcho, [illegible]. Dr. Greenwald, [illegible] Greek Colony, [illegible]. TEL AVIV: [illegible]. HAIFA: [illegible].

Make Rural Practice Attractive Say Doctors, Oppose Drafting

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Better utilization of medical personnel, and much more favourable conditions for rural doctors would ensure enough physicians in frontier villages without resorting to compulsory service for young doctors, the Israel Medical Association told the Knesset Services committee yesterday, by letter. The Health Council expressed a similar opinion earlier this week.

A year's work in outlying settlements should be included within 2½ years served in the defence forces by newly qualified physicians. To compensate this, the I.M.A. suggests enlarging the regular army medical personnel. Candidates for the Medical School should be freed of national service until they qualify, urges the I.M.A.

Instead of forcing doctors to practise in remote districts, the Government should attract them by offering decent conditions there. The Medical Association proposes to give a two- or three-room-house of urban standard to country doctors. They should have a jeep and loans to purchase a private car or replace their present transport. Their monthly salary should be supplemented by IL.150 tax-free with additional payment for calls over the prescribed "norm."

The Association blames lack of contact with city medical services for deterring physicians from rural posts. In order to keep informed of scientific developments, the country doctor should get a chance of meeting colleagues, attending conferences, and visiting hospitals.

The I.M.A. asks for the appointment of a committee within the Health Council to investigate the shortage of medical practitioners in the villages. This committee would contact doctors working part-time in the towns, and also doctors who had just immigrated, with the purpose of directing them towards rural posts. Last year, 100 physicians entered the country, and in 1953, 135 immigrated.

A scholarship fund should be established for medical students guaranteeing to practise in border settlements after they qualify. The output of Medical School internes actually balances the number leaving the profession or dying, asserted the I.M.A. If the Medical School increased its intake of students, it could cover the population's health needs without difficulty.

Girl of 15 Faces Death Penalty

NEW YORK, Wednesday (Reuter). — Theresa Gresh, 15, on trial here as the youngest girl ever to face the death penalty in New York State, was said to have killed her mother after she was scolded.

The prosecution said there were cross words on March 4 last year when Mrs. Anna Gresh, 43, found her daughter in a compromising situation with a youth, William, 17, who is also accused of murder.

Theresa and her boy friend were alleged to have then killed Mrs. Gresh with a knife and stuffed her body into a kitchen bathtub and covered it with plaster of Paris.

The body was discovered on March 26 after neighbours became suspicious.

Both teen-agers were charged with first degree murder. The maximum penalty is death in the electric chair. The girl reached 15 last January 9. If she had been under 15 in March, she would have been charged with juvenile delinquency.

Oppenheimer Says US Would Bar Einstein Today

NEW YORK, Wednesday (Reuter). — Dr. Albert Einstein, the theoretical physicist admitted to America after escaping the Nazis would, perhaps, today not be allowed into the country under the McCarran Act, Dr. Oppenheimer, atomic scientist barred from government secrets as a security risk, made this statement last night in attacking immigration restrictions imposed under the McCarran Act as "a scandal."

In a filmed interview televised here he said "we are rightly ashamed by the contempt that the Europeans have for us and we are rightly embarrassed that we cannot hold scientific congresses in this country. This is a scandal."

HERUT

(Continued from Page One)

stopping an Egyptian ship and bringing her into Haifa with her crew." This would have forced Egypt to give the Bat Galim passage. If the Government was not prepared to do this, but only to appeal to the Security Council, then it should not have sent the ship in the first place.

Mr. Sharett, in asking for the motion to be struck off, stated that Members would no doubt appreciate that the House was not the place to discuss the strategy of the continued efforts to break the Suez blockade. He said that the Government had not yet been able to draw final conclusions or to decide on future policy from the Bat Galim incident on this front; nor had the Security Council as yet wound up its debate, Mr. Sharett added that the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee discussed this question every week.

He ended by expressing the official appreciation and admiration of the Government for the nine men of the Bat Galim crew and their captain "for the steady, proud and responsible way in which they had borne the hardships and dangers which had fallen to their lot while discharging a difficult mission on behalf of the State of Israel."

Mr. Y. Riftin (Mapam) asked that the motion should not be struck off, but passed formally to the Committee, even though it was already being debated there. This proposal set off a heated ten-minute struggle over procedure which was firmly solved by the Speaker, Mr. J. Sprinzak.

Medicos Leave Students Union

The Hebrew University medical students have held a referendum disclosing the majority's desire to withdraw from the Students Union and form a separate association, but a final decision on the split has not yet been taken. Of 380 medical students, 175 voted to leave the Union, with 135 against.

This division in the H.U. students' ranks came to light in the recent strike against higher fees, when the senior classmen at the Medical School voted to pay the fees and return to their studies, in defiance of the Union decision to hold out. Most of the senior classmen supported leaving the Union. A major motive for their action is their preference for personal elections in the Student Union Council, instead of political elections. The Student body is now organised completely on party lines, a majority of seats in the Council being held by Mapai adherents. An active role is played by the Communist students, although they hold few seats.

The Students Union has "officially" no knowledge of the impending split. Unofficially, its leaders expressed considerable annoyance at the Medical School breach of solidarity. Reprisals were hinted at, in the shape of banning medical undergraduates from the students' restaurant, depriving them of cheap lodging and other privileges administered by the Union. The restaurant and students' housing is subsidised by the University.

Europe Weather Death Toll Rises to 29

LONDON, Wednesday (UP). — Blizzards and freezing rain held up transportation and communications across Europe today, increasing weather deaths so far this week to at least 29.

Britain's icy roads began to melt away as rising temperatures spread over the British Isles, but elsewhere in Europe it was a different story with the thermometer at its lowest point of the winter and freezing winds in many places. Snow or ice halted trains, planes, and ships. In many areas, telephone service was severed and hundreds of highways were made impassable.

Amazing End To Third Test

MELBOURNE, Wednesday. — An amazing 80 minutes play here this morning on the fifth day of the third test led to Australia losing its last eight wickets for only 36 runs, giving England a win by 128 runs. Final scoreboard as: England, 191 and 279; Australia, 231 and 111.

Tyson, the Northamptonshire bowler, nicknamed "Tiger" "down under," was mainly responsible for the collapse. He took six wickets today for 16 runs, finishing with an analysis of seven for 27.

Backing him up was a most consistent Statham, Lancashire bowler, who took two for 38. These two bowlers have taken 31 wickets between them in the last two Tests, 19 going to Tyson and 12 to Statham. Appleyard took one wicket in this game at a cost of 17 runs.

The victory gave England a 2-1 lead in the five-game series. The fourth Test starts at Adelaide on January 28. This third Test drew a crowd of nearly 300,000 during the five days' play and established a record in gate money taken.

RED STAR BEAT RIVER PLATE

BUENOS AIRES, Wednesday (UP). — Red Star of Yugoslavia tonight defeated River Plate of Argentina, 2-1 in a soccer football match at Nunez Stadium here.

BIRTHDAY. — West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer yesterday observed his 79th birthday in good general health and looking like a man in his mid-sixties.

IL.210,000 More For Development Body

The revenue received by the Development Authority from rents for flats and premises in the three main towns amounted to IL.600,000 in the past three months, the Authority revealed in its last report covering the period for the renewal of contracts during which a ten per cent rebate was given.

The income is IL.210,000 more than during the preceding three months, and a 180 per cent increase was registered in the number of renewed contracts. Hundreds of tenants whose contracts were not in order have signed new leases and have paid arrears of rent. The rebate will also be given to those tenants who applied to the Authority before December 31, but were unable to complete arrangements before the expiry of the deadline.

The Authority has decided to exempt from rent increases all invalids, whose disability exceeds 50 per cent. Those with a 30 to 49 per cent invalidity will receive 60 per cent rebate and those with a ten to 29 per cent disability, a 40 per cent rebate.

The rents in Civil Servants housing projects coming under the Housing Authority will remain the same, since they were somewhat higher at the outset.

Tenants in private dwellings will also benefit from rebates if they sign new contracts. The higher rents in their case will start on the day of expiry of their recent contract and not on April 1, 1954, as laid down in the law.

With its increased revenue, the Development Authority is to increase its activities in carrying out repairs and improving sanitary conditions.

DANCER TO RECEIVE IL.650 DAMAGES

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — Mr Moshe Wallin, the impresario, agreed today to pay IL.650 damages to Miss Ann Caroll, the dancer who sprained her ankle last year while performing for the Li-La-Lo theatre. Miss Caroll had claimed IL.2,000. The payment, Mr. Wallin said, was made as an out-of-court settlement "in accordance with the old Jewish custom of compensating workers injured on the job."

Tel Aviv Stock Market

JAN. 5		Rise or Fall
Pop. Loans		
1949/69 (IL.10)	99½	
4½% Tavel Dollar x)y)	1204	—
3½% Tavel Dollar x)z)	1204	—
5½% Govt Bds. (large)	97½	—¼
6% Reg. Sterling "A"	92½	—
6% Reg. Sterling "B" a)	93½	—¼
Pal. Bearer Bds. Ser. 3	74	+¼
Bk. Leumi ord sh.	2540	—
A.P.B. Investm.		
6% debs. 50/70 c)	98½	—
ord. sh. "B"	117½	—
Geulat ord sh "B"	107	—
Ellern's Inv. ord. "B"	162	—
P.E.C. Inv. ord. "B" sh. c)	100	—
Gen Mortg. Bk. ord. sh.	92½	—
Bitzur 6% debs. 56/65 c)	87	—
Nir 6% Debs. (bour.) a)	90	—
5% pref. sh. c)	70	—
Pam 6% debs. 49/64 reg	95½	—
"Teva" 8% debs.	88½	—
I.L.D.C. ord. sh. reg.	135½	—1
5% debs. e)	92½	+1
Afr. Pal. Inv. ord. sh.	104	—
Rassco 6% pref. ord sh.	91	+1
Pal. Potash 6% pref. sh.	365	+15
"A" ord. shares	165	+6
Pal. Elec. ord. sh. (Isr.	—	—
Pal. Elec. ord. sh. (Ldn	—	—
Jer. Elec. Corp. ord. sh.	—	—
Mekoroth pref. sh. b)	65½	—
Ata ord. "B" sh	139½	—¼
6-8% conv. debs. c)	97	—
"Kardanah" ord 'B' sh.	146	—
7% conv. debs. 50/64 c)	105	+½
Meller-De ord. sh. reg x	850	—
Pal-Brewery 8% con. sh. c)	96½	—¼
Assis Bejarano "B" sh.	100	—
"Teva" ord. sh. c)	107½	—
Nesher 6% debs. "A"	114½	—
6% debs. "B"	137½	—
Pal. Cold. St. 7% debs. c)	149	—
ord. sh. reg. c)d)	212	—
Pal. Centr. Tr. 8% debs. a)	98½	+1

Notes: a) purchasing price: b) selling price: c) ex-coupons: d) ex right: e) half div.: x) prutot: y) coupons Dec. 15, 1954: z) coupons June 15, 1955.

Cinemas

JERUSALEM
At 3.30, 6.30 and 8.30 p.m.

- **ARNON:** Stars of the Russian Ballet 3rd week.
- **EDEN:** Lili, 3rd week. Also today at 10.30 a.m.
- **EDISON:** Desperate Moment.
- **ORGIL:** His Majesty O'Keefe.
- **ORION:** King of the Khyber Rifles, 2nd week.
- **ORNA:** The Four Poster
- **RON:** The Hungarian Rhapsody.
- **STUDIO:** Cry, the Beloved Country.
- **TEL OR:** One Minute to Zero, 2nd week.
- **ZION HALL:** L'Affaire Maurizius 2nd week.

★

TEL AVIV
At 3.30, 7.15 and 9.15 p.m.

- **CHEN:** The Conquest of Everest.
- **ESTHER:** Mogambo.
- **OPHIR:** Lucrece Borgia, 3rd week.
- **TAMAR:** Europe '51, 2nd week.
- **YARON:** Les Orgueilleux, 2nd week.

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Notice to the Public

TO ALL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Rambam Year opens on Sunday, Tevet 21 (January 16, 1955) with the ascent to the grave of the Rambam. All those wishing to participate in the opening ceremony of the Rambam Year, in the ascent to his grave and in the other programmes should get in touch with the Central Committee in the Ministry for Religious Affairs.

On Shabbat, Tevet 21 (January 15, 1955) speeches commemorating Rambam will be held in the synagogues and public institutions.

DISPATCH OF LETTERS THROUGH POST OFFICE ONLY

The Ministry of Posts calls the public's attention to Paragraph 31 of the Post Offices Ordinance which rules that the exclusive right of transporting letters and of carrying out all the services connected with the receipt of letters, their collection, dispatch and delivery is invested in the Director-General of the Ministry of Posts.

In accordance with the provision of this paragraph any person who sends, or causes to be sent, who transports, or carries out any service connected with the transport of any letter not specifically excluded from the right invested in the Director General of Posts, is committing an offence against the law and is liable to payment of a fine.

The Israel Police is making searches at various transport companies with the aim of seizing all letters entrusted to the companies for delivery and of bringing the offenders to justice.

The public is asked to send letters solely through the mails and thereby to avoid unpleasant effects and the confiscation of letters.

On the eve of his departure for Europe and the U.S.
Farewell Concert
Amiram Rigai
(Piano)
at the Y.M.C.A. Auditorium Jerusalem, on Sat., Jan. 8, 1955. 8.30 p.m.
Programme: Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Reger, Liszt.
Tickets: S. Cahana, and at the box office.

REQUIRED
Junior Clerk
Knowing Hebrew and English.
Offers to P.O.B. 2140, Tel Aviv.

Perfectly trained, experienced
Baby-Nurse
wanted immediately, to sleep in. Fulop, Tel. 3612, or apply in writing to P.O.B. 1231, Tel Aviv.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
REHOVOT
has an opening for an
Organic Physical Chemist or Physical Chemist
with interest in photochemistry. Grade and salary to be determined according to qualifications.
★
Please reply to the Academic Secretary.

WANTED
Mechanical Engineer
as assistant to Plant Engineer.
With experience in construction and drawing work. Knowledge of English and Hebrew essential. Apply in writing only, with curriculum vitae and stating salary requested, to:—
AMERICAN ISRAELI PAPER MILLS LTD.
P.O.B. 142. Hadera.

Required
CHEMICAL ENGINEER
experienced in large-scale factory production and willing to work shifts.
Handwritten offers with curriculum vitae and photo should be addressed by mail only to:
Electromechanical Industries (Frutarom) Ltd.
P.O.B. 630. Haifa.

The long awaited picture
Come Back, Little Sheba
starring Burt Lancaster, Shirley Booth
shortly at the "Tamar" Cinema Tel Aviv.
A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

At ARMON and ORA Cinemas, Haifa
simultaneously
starting January 8, 1955
Israel Premiere
of the charming, delightful, tuneful, amusing, touching, colourful, lavish, eye-filling screen entertainment
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Today's Post Bag

THE WEATHER

FORECAST: Fair with variable amounts of high and medium clouds.

	*A	B	C	D
Mt. Cana'an	52	5	11	12
Tiberias	55	9	—	20
Haifa Port	45	8	19	19
Natanya	54	8	19	19
Tel Aviv Port	61	8	19	19
Tel Aviv Kirya	61	7	20	20
Lydda Airport	43	8	18	19
Jerusalem	37	6	12	12
Beersheba	41	4	16	17
Eilat	35	9	20	20
Sdom	—	8	—	19

*A) Humidity at 3 p.m. B) Minimum temp. C) Maxim. yesterday D) Maximum temp. expected today.

• • •

A PROPOSAL to circulate a petition to the Government to hold municipal and Knesset elections on different dates was adopted at a meeting of Progressive Party Councillors held in Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

• • •

THE PROPRIETORS of the Orion and Eden cinemas in Jerusalem were fined IL.20 and IL.12 respectively by the Jerusalem Municipal Court for opening their box offices before the Sabbath officially ended.

• • •

THE MANAGER of the YMCA Soda Fountain in Jerusalem, Mr. Fuad Mushabbak, was fined IL.10 yesterday in the Jerusalem Municipal Court for selling ice-cream which contained a rusty pin. Magistrate Meir Murciano, while finding the accused guilty under the paragraph defining "absolute liability," noted that all due care had been taken in the handling of the ice-cream.

• • •

FOR EMPLOYING their workers additional hours without a permit, the "Lod" cigarette factory was fined IL.30, and its two owners IL.10 each by Magistrate Haim Aluf in the Ramle Magistrates Court. This is the first sentence to be imposed for a violation of the Work and Rest Hours Law (1951).

• • •

THE PREMISES of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency in Tel Aviv were moved to the main Agency building at 89 Rehov Nahlat Binyamin. Office hours are between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

• • •

THE RECENT RISE in the price of haircuts will, for the time being, not affect soldiers on active duty, according to an agreement reached between the Hairdressers Association and the Soldiers Welfare Committee.

STRICKER PRIZE

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — An annual literary prize has been established in the memory of Robert Stricker, the Zionist leader, who died in a nazi concentration camp 10 years ago, Mr. M. Perlman, chairman of the Ha'igul Association, a Zionist student and alumni group, told a memorial meeting here tonight. The prize will go to a University or Technion student for a work on a Zionist theme. The meeting was called by the Association jointly with Haboneh, the organization of Zionist engineering students in Central Europe.

The Knesset Speaker, Mr. J. Sprinzak, Dr. Nahum Goldman, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, and Mr. Meir Grossman, of the Jewish Agency Executive, eulogized the deceased.

Mr. Karl Stiasny, 68, collapsed and died while attending the meeting. He was employed at the Argaman factory and had come to the country from Czechoslovakia 16 years ago.

Histadrut to Strive For Lower Prices

By Our Labour Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — The Histadrut can and must prevent any rise in prices in 1955, and should try to lower them, Mr. Ze'ev Onn, Secretary General of Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, the controlling body for Histadrut economic enterprises, told a meeting of its Administrative Council here today. The meeting decided to appoint a 21-man committee to work out plans to reduce the gap between costs of production and retail prices. The decision came after the problem had been discussed at two sessions of the Council.

Workers are more concerned with lower prices than higher wages, Mr. Zvi Zimand said, in proposing that the Committee should be instructed to aim at an immediate reduction of five per cent in the prices of goods marketed through the Histadrut. Mr. Zimand declared that the cooperative stores charged no less for their goods than privately owned shops.

Mr. Uri Alpert added that building by Solel Boneh was neither cheaper nor better than that of private contractors. The Histadrut was establishing economic institutions so that they should be different from private concerns, he declared.

Mr. Zvi Ben-Shahar defended the consumers' cooperative movement represented by Hamashbir. The prices in Hamashbir's town shops, he said, were 12 to 15 per cent lower than in privately owned shops, because they worked at a profit of only 17 per cent, as compared with 30 per cent and more in the private sector. It was difficult, however, he stated, for the wage-earning shop assistant to compete with the private shopkeeper, who was prepared to work long hours, helped by his family.

Marketing Cheaper

Mr. Nahum Verlinski, Director of Tnuva, said that the scale recently adopted for Histadrut employees must increase costs, and this must mean either increased prices to the consumer or lower returns to the producer. The marketing of agricultural produce was cheaper in Israel than in most other countries, because of the cooperative form of marketing and the fact that the consumer received less service. If the service to the consumers was improved, for example, by the marketing of bottled milk, they would have to pay more.

Mr. Verlinski believed that the situation could be improved by limitation of licences for new shops, investigation of distribution costs, development of consumers' cooperation, the opening of shops managed directly by Tnuva, the establishment of municipal markets and the development of new marketing methods, such as self-service shops.

Despite the criticism, Mr. Verlinski contended that Tnuva and the labour settlements were mainly responsible for the fact that the prices of agricultural products had not risen in 1954, and perhaps had fallen slightly.

In summing up the discussion, Mr. Ze'ev Onn stated that the price issue was as important as the wage issue. Just as the Histadrut had decided against any increase in basic wages in 1955, he declared, so they must also prevent any price rises.

Currency Up IL.787,913

Currency in circulation was IL.162,083,773 at the close of business yesterday, an increase of IL.787,913 over the previous week, the Bank of Israel announced.

The rise was in Treasury Bills (IL.1,680,000), which was partially offset by a drop in foreign currency holdings of IL. 892,087.

The currency in circulation was backed by:

Gold in Int'l Monetary Fund	IL. 2,025,086
Foreign currency balance	51,012,687
Land bonds	77,266,000
Treasury Bills & Gov't Promissory Notes	31,780,000
Total	IL.162,083,773

Histadrut Against Bus Strike

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — A stoppage of the nation's transport for even one day will not be tolerated by the Histadrut, Mr. Ze'ev Onn, Secretary General of the Hevrat Ovdim, the holding company of the Histadrut, said at a meeting of its Executive Board today.

Mr. Onn said that the threatened stoppage would be a strike, no matter how it had been described by the bus companies in the pamphlets they had distributed. The Hevrat Ovdim would not hesitate to ask the Government to take all action necessary if the threat is carried out.

New Wage Agreement Under Discussion

By Our Labour Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — Negotiations are now proceeding between the Manufacturers Association and the Trade Union Department of the Histadrut with a view to the signature of collective agreements on wages and conditions for the year 1955.

There has already been one meeting, and another is expected to take place this week. It is expected that the attitude of the Manufacturers Association will be clarified within the next few days; the Histadrut has already declared its policy.

Last year, no agreements were signed, those for 1953 remaining in force, but it is reported that the employers have submitted new proposals on a number of points.

Tax Office Appeals On Maximum Levy

Two matters of principle concerning Income Tax Ordinance provisions that a citizen may not pay more than 50 per cent of his income tax before deductions were heard before the Supreme Court yesterday.

The questions were raised in an appeal by the Jerusalem Income Tax Assessment Officer against a leading decision of Jerusalem District Court Relieving President E. M. Many which stipulated that even a seven-and-one-half per cent tax addition, which would be allocated to local authorities, could not be considered outside the 50 per cent maximum. Judge Many, in the same judgment, ruled that the taxpayer's personal allowances must be deducted from the maximum 50 per cent sum. The Income Tax authorities may not deduct these personal allowances from the gross sum and then demand full payment of the maximum 50 per cent, Judge Many decided. The case had been brought by Mr. Krongold, a lawyer.

The Legal Adviser of the Income Tax Commission, Dr. M. Stein, pleaded the appeal.

The Court, composed of Justices Agranat, Sussman and Witkon, deferred its decision. *(Itim)*

Work Begins On Jordan-Negev Plan

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TIBERIAS, Wednesday. — The construction of a tunnel to accommodate a cement pipe three metres in diameter was begun today near the Arab village of Eilaboun in Central Galilee, by engineers and workers of Water Planning for Israel Ltd. (Tahal). The tunnel and pipeline are part of the Jordan Water Project which will bring water from the river to the Negev.

The 850-metre tunnel will be the largest in the country, with the exception of the ancient Shiloah tunnel near Jerusalem, which is no longer used. Its immediate purpose is to carry about one-half of the Jordan flow to be Beit Netufa reservoir which eventually will have a capacity of 1,000 million cubic metres and cover an area of 600 dunams. In addition to irrigation, the project will also serve to supply electricity to the surrounding area.

Pumps will have to be used to bring the water to the Beit Netufa reservoir which is 11 metres above the level of the tunnel. It is estimated that the project will be completed in about a year.

ANOTHER RECORD FOR HAIFA PORT

HAIFA, Wednesday. — Haifa Port yesterday handled a record tonnage of imports and exports — 10,338 tons. Over 6,000 tons, most of it bulk grain and pyrites, were unloaded and 448 tons of general cargo and over 80,000 cases of citrus put aboard.

The Port is now in a period of peak activity, and the number of casual workers sent daily by the labour exchange varies between 300 and 1,000.

Rice from Burma, Ceylon After 28,000 Mile Trip

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA, Wednesday. — After 28,300 miles sailing via Ceylon and Burma, and rounding the Cape of Good Hope twice, the s.s. Etrog returned here today with 1,500 tons of rice in her hold, after a four-month absence from her home port. She is the first Israel vessel to have sailed to that part of the world.

The 3,000-ton Etrog left in September for Antwerp, sailed from there in a 22-day unbroken journey to Durban, South Africa, and then on to Colombo and Rangoon, where she delivered 1,000 tons of potash and 1,000 tons of cement, respectively. In Rangoon, the 36-man crew headed by 30-year-old Malahi Efrat, were entertained at a reception given by the Burmese Government and the Israel Legation and returned the hospitality aboard their ship. They brought home with them Scrolls of the Law and curtains for the Ark left in Burma since World War II when the local Jews fled the Japanese invasion.

On their way back, the Etrog called at Durban and Capetown where hundreds of Jews of the two communities visited her.

Had the ship sailed for Burma through the Suez Canal, the time taken for the trip would have been shortened by two-thirds.

President Hotel Staff Walk Out

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Members of the management tended the switchboard, cooked and waited on a handful of guests at the President Hotel in Jerusalem, yesterday, following a walk-out on Tuesday night by the whole staff of 28.

A strike had been announced for yesterday morning as staff members alleged that Mr. Haim Schiff, the hotel's director, had not paid salaries for three months and had kept back money deducted from their salaries for the past seven months, intended for Kupat Holim contributions, and other money collected over the last nine months, intended for the Workers' Provident Fund.

Sitting in the brilliant sunshine at chairs and tables assembled outside the newly-built luxury hotel, surrounded by purple posters announcing the strike, the hotel-men told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that they advanced the time set for the strike following an assault which they alleged Mr. Schiff had carried out on the head-waiter, Mr. Werner Brock. Mr. Brock said that the irate hotel-director had literally kicked him out of the building after accusing him of discussing the proposed strike with other staff members though, in fact, he had merely been giving them instructions about their work.

Replacement Threat

Mr. Schiff has threatened to replace all the strikers with workers from Haifa, the hotel-men said. It will be recalled that the Megiddo Hotel, in Haifa, has announced its close-down for the winter season.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Mr. Schiff declared that the money owed the strikers for salaries up till December amounted to IL.5,032. He had paid some of the Kupat Holim and other contributions, he said, but admitted to "owing a little." There was not even one pruta with which to pay the workers' salaries, Mr. Schiff said. The hotel was in a very grave financial situation due to the failure of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Treasury to grant a loan which he said they had promised.

As a result of the non-payment of the loan, he had been faced with the impossibility of meeting his wage-bill and had asked the workers to agree to wait until he could arrange some means of paying them. They had done so in writing and he still retained a copy, he said. When he had been informed by letter on Tuesday afternoon that a strike had been declared for the following day he had dispatched 21 telegrams to the President, members of the Cabinet, and heads of the Knesset committees, describing the situation and appealing to them to use their good offices to secure the loan and avoid the closure of the hotel.

He had no idea why the time of the strike had been advanced, Mr. Schiff said, denying that he had assaulted Mr. Brock. The staff had behaved unreasonably, he said. He hinted that "Communist trouble-makers" among the strikers had brought about the present situation. As it was he had budgeted for losses of IL.80,000 over the winter season, though it was hoped that the Easter and Passover peak period, when bookings would not leave an empty bed in the hotel, would assist in recovering a part of the money.

Meanwhile, a request for a temporary injunction to prevent the President Hotel orchestra from performing works by members of the Composers and Publishers Association was presented before the Jerusalem District Court by the Association yesterday.

The Association claims that in accordance with international contracts, it has the copyright for most of the tunes played in cafes and hotels and monthly fees are required from them. The President Hotel has refused to pay these fees, the Association claims. *(Itim)*

MILLERS TO TAKE BACK BUCKWHEAT

The question of who will bear the loss for the poisonous buckwheat groats *(kussemet)* distributed on last month's ration was settled yesterday when the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the mills were to accept the return of the groats from wholesalers and retailers and to make full refund. The reason given was that the grits had not been well sifted with the result that foreign bodies remained.

The final date for the return of the grits to the mills will be January 21, after which date any such merchandise found on the market will be destroyed.

In the future the mills will be permitted to sell only whole-grain buckwheat, because this can be properly sifted, the Ministry stated. By-products of whole-grain buckwheat (including all kinds of cracked grains) have been declared by the Ministry to be unfit for human consumption.

Any additional expense in connection with these regulations will be borne by the millers.

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Atomic Race Seems Near Its End

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The atomic arms race between the big powers seems to be nearing its end, Professor G. Racah told the Jerusalem Rotary Club yesterday in an address on "Atomic Energy for Industry."

Professor Racah said that he was not being optimistic in making this declaration, but rather cynical in pointing out that the great powers had already piled up almost enough bombs to destroy the world, and there was no point in making any more as long as there was no interplanetary communication to make it possible to destroy other worlds as well.

He spoke of the potential surplus of plutonium and uranium 235 which would result from this situation and for which new markets were being sought — this leading to the development of the use of atomic energy for generating steam power and electricity.

Seargent Cited For Bravery

In an Order of the Day, the Chief of Staff, Rav-Aluf Moshe Dayan, has cited Samal Yitzhak Gibli, who was captured, gravely injured, after his unit had clashed with an Arab Legion unit on June 28, last year.

In the citation, it was stated that, despite his wounds, Samal Gibli, continued to act with courage and daring. He demanded that his friends leave him so that they would not get hit. "The conduct of Samal Gibli after he was wounded and while in captivity was exemplary," the order concluded.

Foreign Aid Students To Be Polled

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — The Institute of Applied Social Research in Jerusalem is shortly to carry out a survey among the Israelis who studied in America under the U.S. Operations Missions. The Institute is directed by Prof. Eliahu Guttman.

Also involved in the investigation, which is being undertaken at the request of the Government, with the cooperation of the USOM, to obtain a full evaluation of the success of the training, will be Israelis who studied abroad under U.N. fellowships.

These facts were revealed at the first joint gathering of Israelis who studied in America in connection with the USOM programme, technicians of the mission, and Government officials administering the plan from this end, at ZOA house here today. Some 250 persons attended.

The hope that this "get-together" would be the first of a series of annual events was expressed by Mr. Ralph Goldman, Director of Technical Assistance in the Prime Minister's Office. The USOM Director in Israel, Dr. Lincoln B. Hale, said that he intended writing to Mr. Stassen, Foreign Aid Administrator, from whom he brought greetings, to inform him of the significance "of this fraternity of men and women."

The main event on the programme was a discussion, led from the platform by a panel of Israelis and USOM personnel, in which all connected with the training programme aired their views. The chief complaint of the "students" was that when they returned after completing their study, they found they were hardly consulted by the bodies which had sent them.

Dr. Hale presented training completion awards to some 40 participants who had received training in nine fields of activity.

As many as 100 Israelis may be able to study in the U.S. this year, Dr. W. Becker, of the Vocational Education Branch of the USOM told *The Jerusalem Post*. In 1954, there were 70 participants. He stressed that private firms were able to send trainees.

Tov in Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES, Wednesday (INA). — Mr. Moshe Tov, head of the Latin American Division of the Israel Foreign Ministry, arrived here yesterday on an official goodwill mission to various Latin American countries.

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Flood Victims Freed Of Tel Aviv Rates

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — All victims of the recent floods who live in the Tel Aviv area will be exempt from rates for three months, according to a unanimous decision of the Municipal Council here this evening.

One-third of the city's Development Budget is to be devoted to repairs and maintenance in slum areas, and the Municipality is to ask the Government to assist in the slum clearance project. The Sewage and Finance Committees were instructed to plan an adequate drainage system the area.

Mayor Haim Levanon said that the response of the public to the President's Fund for the Flood Victims had been disappointing and that a call would go out to citizens who had not suffered from the floods to assist the victims to a greater extent.

Criticism was voiced by some Councillors that the Municipality had not taken sufficient precautionary measures against floods.

IL.8,172 Raised For Flood Victims

The President's Fund for Flood Victims has received IL.8,172.250 so far, it was announced yesterday. Contributions are pouring in daily, many persons calling at Beit Hanassi to present their donation. A good many of the contributions received in the mail are anonymous.

The largest amount yesterday came from the Diamond Dealers Exchange which sent IL.1,000. Gadna youth at Afula collected IL.44 from their pocket money, while a 10-year-old boy from Tel Hanan sent in IL.27 which represented Hanukka presents he had received from relatives.

Mr. Ben-Zvi has invited four bodies each to appoint a representative to the committee of the President's Fund for Flood Victims. They are the Ministry for Social Welfare, the Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency, the Local Authorities Association, and the Tel Aviv Municipality.

Mrs. Rahel Ben-Zvi is to serve as chairman.

Arab Claims Residence Rights for Aiding State

An order nisi against the Minister of Interior was granted by the High Court yesterday to an Arab lacking an identity card who claims that he crossed into a neighbouring country in the course of his duties with the Israel Intelligence Services, and for that reason he was out of the country when residents were required to register and receive indentity cards. The applicant is on the point of being expelled from the country.

When the applicant applied for authorization for permanent residence in Israel, he attached a statement by Mr. Aharon Tsuri, who had been his superior in the Intelligence Services, supporting his claim.

(For signing the statement, Mr. Tsuri was tried for revealing military secrets, but was acquitted by the Supreme Court Martial).

The Court was composed of Justices Cheshin (President), Silberg and Landau.

Dog 'Detective' Dead

Jerusalem Post Reporter

"Tracker," a five-year-old bloodhound with a long distinguished career in police service, died early this week in Jerusalem.

An implacable enemy of infiltrators, "Tracker" first became famous when he tracked four of them to a grove near Petah Tikva after they had wounded a man. In 1953, he trailed across the border and into the Jordanian police station of Rantis the infiltrators who killed a woman and her two children in the village of Yahud. He was one of the bloodhounds used to trace the murderers of the Ma'ale Akrabim massacre.

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Meat, Sugar, Eggs In Next 3 Months

By Our Knesset Correspondent

From January to March, rations of 100 grams of meat per person per month will be available, together with one kilogram of sugar (with an additional 500 grams for children under two); in March there will be a further 200 grams per person as a Purim ration. Between 11 and 13 eggs per person per month will be distributed, and 1,100 grams of fats.

The margarine ration which was delayed in November owing to a sudden failure of Turkish supplies will have been made up by the middle of the present month.

Mr. P. Bernstein, Minister of Commerce and Industry, listed these rations in the Knesset yesterday in reply to a question by Mr. S. Sysman (General Zionist).

Asked by Mr. Y. Bar Yehuda (Ahdut Ha'avoda) what steps had been taken by his Ministry following allegations that officials had been improperly engaging in private business, Mr. Bernstein said that allegations against Mr. N. Gillerman (an official who resigned on Tuesday) had been reaching his office for the past two years.

"A careful check within the office itself brought no irregularities to light. The police continued the investigation, but in the course of 18 days' questioning of Mr. Gillerman have found nothing for which he could be brought before the courts."

"If we were to dismiss from the Government service without full investigation every official against whom rumours circulate we should commit an injustice to the officials and make work in Government offices impossible. These rumours are often circulated by persons who consider that they were badly treated by a Government department... These general accusations, which contain no details concerning facts or persons are a poison that is destroying relations between the public and the Government, and between members of government offices themselves."

Mr. S. Aranne, Minister without Portfolio and Director of the Government Information Services, in reply to a question by Mr. H. Rubin (Mapam), told the Knesset yesterday that between April and October 1954 his Department had paid IL.800 in fares for members of Shurat Hamitnadvim carrying out educational work in immigrant settlements in the Jerusalem Corridor. From November, his office had undertaken to provide up to IL.100 per month for these fares.

At the beginning of every month a meeting is held by the official responsible to Mr. Aranne for information services in immigrant settlements and representatives of Shurat Hamitnadvim, at which a detailed plan is laid down for the work of volunteers receiving this subsidized transport. Between April and December, he said, a total sum of IL.60 had also been given to this organization by the Information Services for general purposes.

More Police Searching For Missing Pair

BEERSHEBA, Wednesday. — A search party of local police reinforced by men of the Jerusalem and Migdal Ashkelon forces will at dawn tomorrow join the search in the Hebron hills for Shoshana Har Zion, 18, of Beit Alpha, and Oved Wagmeister, 17 of Degania "A". The pair left from S'dom almost two weeks ago to hike to Ein Gedi, about 50 kilometres to the north.

The Secretary and other members of the Beit Alpha settlement arrived here today and will join the search party. The parents of the missing boy and girl also came south today.

Gillerman Resigns

Mr. N. Gillerman, who was recently held incommunicado for some weeks by the Economic Police, following alleged irregularities in foodstuffs and fodder import deals, had an interview on Tuesday with Mr. P. Bernstein, Minister of Commerce and Industry, at his own request and tendered his resignation as head of the Ministry's Foodstuffs Imports Division, the Ministry spokesman announced yesterday. Mr. Bernstein accepted the resignation, the spokesman added.

The Economic Police stated in November that they had not made up their minds about Mr. Gillerman's part in transactions allegedly carried out by D. Silberstein, an importer, who is to be tried shortly for a breach in foreign trade regulations.

Direct Talks on Arab Accounts Admitted

The Palestine Conciliation Commission's memorandum to Jordan on the release of frozen Arab accounts in Israel, received in Amman on Tuesday night, makes it clear that the agreement in this connection was obtained through direct negotiations with Israel, the Old City daily, "A-Diffa," reported yesterday.

Negotiations were carried out in Paris by the lawyers Aziz Shehadeh and Mohammed Yehia of the Ramallah General Refugees Congress with an Israel delegate, it was said.

The memorandum outlines the procedure to be adopted for the release of funds. The Jordan Cabinet is expected to discuss the memo and define its attitude on Sunday, it was stated.

Cables in Brief

LEAGUE. — The Arab League's Supreme Defence Council will meet in Cairo at the end of January to discuss ways and means of implementing the Arab mutual security pact.

SURGERY. — Soviet surgeons in 1954 carried out 7,500 operations, nearly all successful, to transplant cornea from dead people to blind persons; far more than in all the rest of the world put together, Moscow Radio reported.

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All Commanders of British Army Units during World War II are hereby invited to attend a
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which will be held at the Beit Hahalutzot, 37 King George St., Tel Aviv, on Tuesday, January 11, 1955, at 5 p.m. Meeting will be closed at 7 p.m.
Celebrations, commemorating Jewish Volunteering, which will be held during the month of March 1955, include all Servicemen having served in Palestinian Units of the British Army during the Second World War.
The Committee entrusted with preparations for these celebrations wishes to ensure, that all units, even the smallest, participate in all activities, projects, meetings, parade, festival etc.
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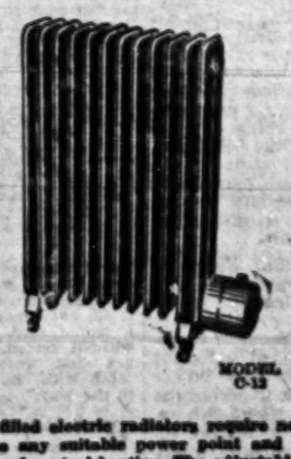

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Namir Mediates In Zealot-Club Dispute

Jerusalem Post Staff

No agreement on a solution to the dispute over the Children's Club of the Working Mothers Organization in Rehov Devora Hanevia, Jerusalem, resulted from yesterday's meeting between Mr. Moshe Baram, Secretary of the Jerusalem Labour Council, and Rabbi Yeshayahu Sheinberger, a leader of Natorei Karta, and son-in-law of Rabbi Amram Blau, *The Jerusalem Post* learns. However, it is believed that the door has been kept open for further discussions.

Mr. Baram proposed ending the dispute by erecting a high wall around the playground which would hide the children from view. Rabbi Sheinberger rejected this solution, insisting that the Club be removed. (Rabbi Blau suggested a fortnight ago that a wall might be a solution to the dispute).

Contact between Mr. Baram and Rabbi Sheinberger was arranged on Tuesday by Mr. Mordecai Namir, Secretary General of the Histadrut.

Mr. Namir took this step after he had been visited in Histadrut headquarters in Tel Aviv at the beginning of the week by Rabbi Sheinberger and Mr. Zoopnik of the U.S., who impressed on him their desire to preserve the distinctive character of Meah Shearim. Mr. Zoopnik told Mr. Namir that he was doing his best to prevent demonstrations in America on this issue, and undertook to wire to the U.S. to explain the position.

Mr. Namir did not give the deputation any promises, but paid a visit to the area on Tuesday and arranged for Rabbi Sheinberger to meet Mr. Baram with a view to arriving at a settlement.

Yeshiva Head Held For Questioning

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Rabbi Avraham Eliahu Meises, head of Torah Veyira Yeshiva in Meah Shearim, the headquarters of Natorei Karta, was detained and questioned by the Jerusalem police yesterday on a demonstration that took place two weeks ago outside the Children's Club of the Working Mothers Organization in Rehov Devora Hanevia, Jerusalem.

While he was demonstrating outside the Club yesterday, he was "invited" to appear at the police station. The demonstration itself was mild, only about 30 zealots participating.

The police offered to take him in a police van, but Rabbi Meises refused, saying that the evening was nice for a walk.

Rabbi Amram Blau, a leader of Natorei Karta, and seven other persons, including his son Uri, who were arrested on Tuesday evening for demonstrating outside the Club, are to be brought before the Jerusalem Magistrate today. The police are applying for a detention order against the eight men until they complete their investigation of Tuesday's violent demonstration. All those arrested have refused to answer questions put to them by the police.

SECRET BROTHERHOOD CHIEF IN FRANCE

The head of the Moslem Brotherhood's secret organization, Col. Abdul Mun'im Abdul Ra'ouf, who recently escaped from Egypt, has reached France, according to the Arab News Agency yesterday.

He has applied for political asylum in Syria, but this has been refused him by the Syrian Embassy in Paris. Egypt is not expected to demand his deportation as there is no extradition agreement with France.

Shmuel and Bilha Hayek
Shikun Ovdei Hamedina, Givat Shahin, Jerusalem
invite all friends to the
Bar Mitzva
of MICHAEL
on Saturday, January 8, 1955, at the Synagogue of Beet Yaakov Seminary, Givat Shahin. Reception: Hotel Salvia, 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

THE JERUSALEM
POST

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Thursday, January 6, 1955
Tevet 12, 5715—Jumada al-Ula 12, 1374

A CLEAR DEFINITION

THE proposal made by Egypt to the Security Council on Tuesday that a sub-committee of the Mixed Armistice Committee be appointed to decide what should be done with the Bat Galim has not yet been discussed in detail by the Council which adjourned after hearing a number of statements, in order to give new members of the Council time to study the situation.

Egypt naively claimed that if this proposal were adopted this would be the last phase in the incident of the Bat Galim as far as she was concerned, since the crew had been returned and the cargo was also ready for release.

Notable about the proceedings on Tuesday was the fact that this opening gambit of Egypt had practically no effect. The declarations by the principal Western Powers were clear and emphatic that Egypt had no right to prevent the free passage of Israel shipping through the Canal. In each case, too, special stress was laid upon the presumed improvement in Egypt's conduct in connection with the Canal. The American delegate quoted the late Mohammed Azmi's statement that no shipping bound for Israel had been impeded between March and October 1954 (the date of the meeting at which the statement was made) as evidence of this.

Implicit in the expressions of tempered satisfaction with Egypt was the plain assumption that nothing short of free passage for Israel shipping would meet the bill. Significant, too, was one passage in Sir Pierson Dixon's speech in which he said that Israel was within her rights in making a test case of the Bat Galim. But it was left to M. Henri Hoppenot, of France, to detail the rights and obligations of Egypt under the Constantinople Convention of 1888; and it was the French delegate who disposed scathingly and convincingly of the argument still being employed by the Egyptian Foreign Minister that Egypt could claim belligerent rights under the Convention and so impede and search Israel ships.

How far the temper of the West will continue to hold at next week's meeting of the Security Council remains to be seen. Egypt's obligation to permit freedom of passage has certainly been emphatically underlined. The problem still to be solved is by what means Egypt can be made to observe the ruling of the Security Council in this connection. It will be recalled that the resolution of September 1951 was unequivocal enough and the tension which has mounted since then has arisen mainly over Egypt's refusal to obey that ruling. In the meantime the legal position of Israel has been made even stronger. The Mixed Armistice Commission in November 1954 definitely laid it down that for an Israel ship to be in Egyptian waters for the purpose of passing through the Suez Canal was no infringement of her territorial waters in violation of the Armistice Agreement.

The discussions on that occasion at the Mixed Armistice Commission concluded the business of the Bat Galim with that body. Henceforth what happened to the ship was purely incidental. The present debate at the Security Council is on the principle of freedom of passage and how to give it practical effect. The Egyptian suggestion is wholly unacceptable. If Israel refused to accept the crew of the Bat Galim back under the aegis of the Mixed Armistice Commission, it is hard to see how we can compromise over the vital matter of the ship.

It is clear that Egypt is looking for a way out of this self-imposed dilemma with some vestige of prestige. The speeches at the Security Council have suggested sufficient positive "contributions" on her part to allow her to accept the advice of her friends there, if she is really to behave according to the rules of international good conduct.

TEL AVIV SEWERAGE PLAN COMPLETED

LYDDA AIRPORT, Wednesday. — The master plan for the regional sewerage system of the Tel Aviv area has been completed, Mr. C. D. S. Braine, the London sewerage engineer, said on leaving by B.O.A.C. today. The scheme is to cost IL.30m., he estimated.

Mr. Braine, an associate of Mr. Henry Kaufman, had spent one month here. He is expected to return in April.

Washington and Bonn After the French Assembly Vote

Paris Vacillation Causes Dismay in U.S.

By ALASTAIR BUCHAN

WASHINGTON, (OFNS). — THE prolonged and bitter debate in the French Assembly which culminated in a very narrow margin of approval for the rearmament of Germany within the Western European Union framework, and a somewhat larger one for her entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was followed with dismay here.

However, it has not evoked either from the Administration, the Press or from individual Senators, the portentous threats of "agonizing reappraisal" which were so deafening in the months before the rejection of the European Defence Community by France last August. Apart from a warning by President Eisenhower on Christmas Eve that he regarded the situation created by the Assembly's initial rejection of German rearmament "with the utmost seriousness," the Administration has watched the debate in official silence. Nor have the editorials in leading American papers condemned the vacillations of the Assembly in anything like the severe language used by their leading British counterparts.

Warning the Assembly

There are two reasons for this. One is that it is now recognized in Washington that angry words and threats from there have the opposite effect that they are intended to and increase the intransigence of French Deputies and French opinion. Under the prevailing "good partnership" policy, the State Department deliberately left it to the British Foreign Office to issue a stern warning to the Assembly on the results that would flow from its failure to ratify the Paris Agreements. Although it exactly expressed the American point of view, it is known that London now exerts a greater influence on Paris than does Washington: (1) because the British Government has not overplayed its hand in the past; (2) because the British commitment of four divisions to the Western European Union Organization, of which she will be a member, gives her a more direct and legitimate interest in its creation than the United States.

The second reason for the underplaying in Washington of the drama of French ratification is that the Administration has, in some senses, already made its "agonizing reappraisal" about France. Nothing so crude as a decision to "write off" France has occurred — rather there is a determination that American policy shall no longer be obstructed by any French veto or commitment.

This is clearly visible in the attempts to work out an independent American policy for the security of Southern Vietnam. It has been equally apparent in the determination to go ahead with the rearmament of Germany, even if France failed to ratify the Paris Agreements, and thereby, in Sir Winston Churchill's phrase, left an "empty chair" in the Councils of the West. The current American attitude rests on a belief that though M. Mendes-France may one day succeed in creating the effective leadership it has lacked since 1945, France is not in a position at present to take responsible decisions. This attitude was summarized in a phrase in "Time" Magazine: "France is not a great Power, but a great civilization, politically paralysed." Thus, despite the fact that the French Assembly did in the end ratify the Paris Agreements, there are some grounds for the reports that were current in Washington during the debate that the United States is contemplating basing its military support of the defence of Western Europe on Germany and the Netherlands rather than on France.

This idea has often been canvassed in the past two years, as one delay after another had occurred in the launching of an integrated European defence system. It has always been met by the military objection that the approaches to Antwerp, and Hamburg and the ports themselves are so much more vulnerable as major supply bases than Le Havre and Bordeaux. Now, however, acceptance of the fact that any war in Western Europe will involve the full-scale use of atomic weapons, gives the French ports a less obvious advantage since supplies landed there involve a long overland haul to the NATO forward bases in Germany and the Rhineland of a kind that would be particularly easy to disrupt with atomic weapons. In view of the fact that the Paris agreements will now probably go into force, there is not likely to be any dramatic shift in the basis of American military planning in so far as it affects France — what is more likely is a gradual shift of emphasis in all phases of strategic planning to ensure that at no point is any particular plan or objective wholly dependent on French cooperation.

American official distrust, as revealed by the reaction to this week's debate, is not directed against France as such, nor against M. Mendes-France, although his handling of some aspects of the debate have been heavily criticized—it is the Assembly itself and, in particular, the vacillations of the M.R.P. party members which have aroused especial scorn. If M. Mendes-France, who is now regarded in Washington as being the one hope of a rejuvenated France, were to force a general election and return with a clear mandate of leadership, much of the current desire to reinsure against French weakness would disappear.

Crowds outside the French Assembly said "NO" to German rearmament before the crucial debate — and sent shivers up the spines of diplomats in the West's capitals. The crowds helped heighten the tension inside the Assembly which at first rejected the Paris Treaties.

Express Photo

West Germany Waits and Wonders

By SEBASTIAN HAFFNER

BERLIN, (OFNS). — UNLIKE the British and American Governments, the West German Government kept strictly silent during the Parliamentary drama in the French National Assembly. The official echo from West Germany is, probably wisely, kept in low tones and does not go beyond conventional expressions of satisfaction and hope.

The Social Democratic opposition, on the other hand, has been quick to put the finger on the one feature of the Paris treaties vote which may still influence the fate of the treaties in West Germany: the clause stating that the ratification documents of all the agreements must be deposited simultaneously, in other words, that all the Paris treaties will fall to the ground unless the Saar agreement is ratified in the same solemn form as the rest. So far, this unbreakable link between the Saar agreement and the other Paris treaties has only been informally proclaimed by M. Mendes-France. Now it has become a legally binding vote of the French Assembly, with the effect that if the West German Parliament, or one of its two Chambers, should refuse to ratify the Saar agreement, this would be the end of the Paris treaties as a whole.

Saar in Doubt

The Saar agreement is, of course, the only part of the Paris treaties whose ratification in West Germany is seriously in doubt. The Social Democratic opposition, which is not only opposed to the Saar agreement for its own sake, but also remains convinced that the whole Paris settlement is a disaster for Germany, will undoubtedly try its utmost to prevent or delay ratification of the Saar agreement in order thereby to bring down the Paris treaties as a whole. Its position is, tactically, not hopeless in this respect because its opposition to the Saar agreement (though not to the rest of the treaties) is at present shared by two Government parties, the Free Democrats and the Refugee Party, and because the recently concluded coalition of the Social Democrats with one or both of these parties in Hesse and Bavaria strengthens the link between the double opposition.

The possibility exists that the Saar agreement might be rejected in the Bundesrat (Upper Chamber) or that a legal case might be made out that it requires a constitutional amendment and hence a two-thirds majority in both Chambers, which at present does not exist in the Bundestag (Lower Chamber) either. On the other hand, it is also still possible that the formal linking of the Saar agreement with the rest of the Paris treaties, and the clear realization that rejection of the Saar agreement will, in effect, kill the Paris treaties as a whole, may in the upshot weaken the opposition of the Free Democrats and the Refugee Party to the Saar agreement and frighten them into acquiescence.

This is part of the general question as to what the deeper impact of the Paris debate on the various West German political forces will be — a question which only the next few weeks and months can answer. Some of the thoughts which the Paris drama has inevitably evoked in Western Germany are given expression by the independent and influential "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" in these words:

Can satisfaction really be genuine even among the determined adherents of the Paris treaties? The last few days have at least demonstrated how many shadows will lie on the alliance with France for years ahead. One of the most important members joins the new community only reluctantly, with every sign of lack of confidence... the conclusion is inevitable that in its heart of hearts the French nation does not want the alliance with the German Federal Republic. The fear of the German divisions has not been overcome. Only another fear proved in the end even stronger; the fear of a complete diplomatic isolation of France... Rarely was an alliance concluded under such ill auguries.

Readers' Letters

BUTAGAZ SUPPLY

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — May we take the opportunity, through your columns, of bringing to the attention of Shell Butagaz customers, many of whom are readers of *The Jerusalem Post*, a few comments on the supply situation?

For reasons beyond our control, supplies of Shell Butagaz are, at present, limited. Of the available supplies, priority is given to hospitals and public institutions. The rest is distributed as fairly as possible throughout the country, with Jerusalem, like other towns, receiving its due share.

We very much regret the inconvenience caused to our customers by the delay in supplying gas. May we assure them that while we are distributing all the gas which is at present available to the Company, no efforts are being spared to improve the position.

Yours etc.,
The Shell Company of Palestine Ltd.
Haifa, December 27.

POLICE EFFICIENCY

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir,— While your "Letters to the Editor" Column has done a splendid job in airing grievances against public officials, I know that you are also interested in awarding praise where praise is due.

Two days ago, after losing a briefcase in Haifa, I phoned from Jerusalem and to my great relief the Haifa Police had the briefcase and had already written a letter to Jerusalem on the subject. Some months ago, a pocket book containing over IL.50.-, which my wife had lost in the streets of Jerusalem, was also returned intact by the Jerusalem Police.

At first glance, this might seem merely to indicate that the Gross family have been losing a lot of things in Israel. Any inconvenience we have experienced, however, has been more than counter-balanced by the very healthy respect we have gained for the efficiency of the Israel Police Force.

Yours etc.,
BERTRAM M. GROSS
Jerusalem, December 30.

PRIZE BOOK

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — An article in *The Jerusalem Post* of November 26, dealing with prizes gained by Israel at this year's "Triennale" in Milan, mentions a gold medal given for the illustrations to the book, "Hatul Shahor." The authorship of the book was attributed to G. Him.

We should like to point out that this book, published by E. Lewin-Epstein, is a translation from the English of our book, "Five Silly Cats," pictures by Lewitt-Him, words by Alina Lewitt. It is the joint work of both undersigned.

Yours, etc.,
JAN LE WITT
GEORGE HIM
London, December 15.

PEN FRIENDS

Herbert Laverbach, 316 Lincoln Ave., Lansdowne, Pa., U.S.A., 13 years old, wants a pen friend in order to exchange stamps.

KEEPING POSTED

"WHILE being transferred from the ship Pan York in Famagusta Port to the Detention Camp exactly six years ago on January 1, 1949," writes a correspondent, "we saw a group of Greek boys who threw us oranges, although the British guard tried to stop them. The boys were all shouting "Enosis," and we supposed that it was Greek for "welcome," or something of the sort. There were more shouts of "Enosis" all the way to Xilotymbou camp, and wanting to be friendly, we of course also shouted "Enosis," pleased to have

learnt what we thought was our first Greek word. The British guards did not seem happy about it all, and made us shut up. But I never read of Enosis now without remembering the oranges that were so difficult to catch with the soldiers getting in the way."

• • •

WE hear from a friend that the account of the bedridden missionary lady who had held a driving licence in Palestine 50 years ago recalls the uncomfortable experience of a Jerusalem eye-specialist at that time. It seems that a man turned up in his clinic and asked him for a certificate stating that his eyesight was satisfactory. The doctor examined his eyes and told him that he was sorry, but that he could not give him a certificate. The truth was, he told the man, that his eyes were bad — he was almost blind. A fortnight later the doctor was called to a patient at midnight. He went to Zion Square to get the only taxi operating at night at that time, and was disagreeably surprised to discover that the driver was no other than the patient who had wanted a certificate. Before the doctor could say anything the driver said "It's your fault, doctor. The rest of the gang in the cooperative won't let me drive any longer except at night because you wouldn't give me that silly bit of paper."

• • •

THE Post Office, which has been so much abused in the past, and still provides one of the slowest means of sending a letter from one place in Israel to another, makes up in ingeniousness what it lacks in speed. (And speed, after all, is largely a matter of money). If you send an air mail letter abroad nowadays with insufficient postage on it, it is no longer infuriatingly sent by surface mail without the sender's knowledge, which may be a matter of many weeks if the letter happens to be addressed to Australia, as used to be the case, and it is not even returned to the sender for more stamps, which might mean a delay of a week. Nowadays, the letter is sent off, and the writer receives a polite explanation that the postage was insufficient, with instructions to paste the missing stamps on the form, and to return this to the Post Office. There is also a partial solution to the not inconsiderable problem of the 24-hour delay in the delivery of telegrams that arrive on the Sabbath. If you actually know that a telegram is likely to have arrived for you during the Sabbath, you may ring up the Post Office and enquire, and the message will be read to you. It only remains for the constitutionally anxious and catastrophe-conscious to ring up the Cable Office every Saturday just on the off chance.

• • •

WE have heard from a reader who was struck by a news item in this paper some days ago that there were always so many suicides in Vienna on New Year's Eve that a Catholic organization had arranged for a priest to give advice by telephone on that day to those who did not think it worth while to stay alive. She soon began to wonder whether the idea of the new calendar year also proved unsettling in Israel, and went down to Tel Aviv beach, where the would-be suicides are said to congregate. She was amazed to discover that, a week of floods and storms notwithstanding, there were plenty of deck-chairs out, and quite a number of people bathing. She asked one of them who was just coming out, and he said that the water was just right—not too warm and not too cold.

• • •

A party of friends originally from Germany, who have always been accustomed to celebrate the international New Year, had gathered again this time to see the old year out. They drank a great deal of hot punch, mainly for medical reasons, it seems,

as they were almost all suffering from seasonal coughs and colds. A few minutes before midnight they turned on the radio and, dialling aimlessly, tuned in to Cyprus. "It is now nineteen fifty-five," said the announcer plainly, and the party was both mystified and amused. All their watches showed that it was twenty-three fifty-five, if not a few minutes more. Was the Cyprus announcer drunk? We hear that it took them a full five minutes to realize that the man in Cyprus was wholly sober.

Today's contributors include W. A. Schocken and G. Axelrad, Tel Aviv, and E. Gevin, Nahariya.

New Hours Needed for Efficiency

By DAVID JARVIS

THE hours of work fixed for Israel's civil servants—though determined according to their own wishes — are nevertheless inconvenient. Employees clock in at 7.30 a.m. and out again at 2.30 p.m. (though on Tuesdays they work later). The majority thus breakfast at 6.45 in the morning and lunch when they get home at a quarter-to-three or later.

This is an unwholesome and unnatural layout for the day. A man cannot, after supper the night before, wait all night and all the following working day before he eats his next substantial hot meal. He has, it is true, a half-hour break at midday; but that short interval does not allow him to leave the office, get to a restaurant, eat three courses and get back again — even if Jerusalem possessed good quick-service cafeterias. In any case few can afford a daily restaurant lunch.

What happens in practice? Some employees admit that after 1 p.m. they feel hungry, do not work with full efficiency, and cannot help keeping an eye on the clock. Others appear at first glance to be in a worse plight still; they do not even have breakfast before coming to the office. By contrast, however, they start eating when they start working, and go on eating (it sometimes seems) right through until it is time to go home. The man in charge of the canteen in one Ministry — a canteen that under its former and less enterprising concessionaire confined itself to tea and cakes — can sometimes be seen walking up the Ministry corridor at half past eight or nine in the morning with a boiled egg, bread and butter, cheese and a glass of milk on his tray. Plainly, some civil servants who had rushed to the office and signed in on time (and the Ministry is proud of its punctiliousness in this matter) settled down subsequently to a comfortable breakfast at their desks. The influence that the steady munching of bread and sipping of tea which goes on almost without pause in government offices has on work output must necessarily be adverse. It certainly produces a disagreeable impression on outsiders calling at government departments, and probably promotes digestive troubles.

What is the remedy? It seems that the Civil Service Commission would gladly close offices at 12.30 p.m. and open again, say, from 4 p.m. until six. But such a programme would not be welcome to those for whom it is intended. It cuts up the civil servant's spare time. It also prevents him from undertaking other paid work in the afternoon. Doing another job, of course, is against his contract of employment — but a man must live!

The following might be a solution. Hours should be from eight o'clock to noon and from one to five in the afternoon. On Fridays, work should cease at noon. This would give a working week of 44 hours — four hours more than are worked at present. For in calculating working hours, the Law on Hours of Work and Rest expressly implies that the half-hour break for lunch should not be included. Thus the present working week in government offices is not 42½ hours long, as is generally assumed. Israel's administrators enjoy in fact the forty-hour week.

In order for this working week to be effective, civil servants must eat a proper lunch at noon. Restaurants should welcome this prospect, since they are usually empty of clients at that hour of day. But can the civil servant afford the luxury of a three-course restaurant lunch five times a week. Here it is necessary, and would be socially constructive, to give him some encouragement. Just as canteens are required in factories, so they should be established in government offices. Better still, an arrangement could be made with the Association of Caterers in Jerusalem allowing civil servants to buy meal tickets costing (let us say) 500 prutot in their offices, exchangeable for a good three-course meal at specified restaurants in Jerusalem between the hours of twelve and one. Side by side with this arrangement, the consumption of food during working hours on government premises would be strictly forbidden.

Shopping Inconvenience

Employees who live in the suburbs cannot do their shopping in town under the present system of office hours. Indeed, the hours at which shops choose to open are ingeniously contrived so that most office workers cannot use them on their way to or from work or during their lunch-hour break. The employee who wends his way to work at 7.15 a.m. finds that the shops are not yet open, nor have they reopened for the afternoon spell when he leaves work at 2.30 p.m. Other non-governmental office workers who go off at one o'clock also find that the shops have just closed and do not open again until he (or she) is due back at work.

It is equally inconceivable that the last cinema performances should start at 9.15 p.m. and later. No wonder that sleepy clerks have no time for breakfast before coming to the office the following morning.

All the strange and variegated systems of timing that exist side by side in our small community need to be synchronized. Shops should remain open throughout the lunch break. Small one-man shops should alternate, half of them closing between noon and one o'clock, the other half between one and two o'clock. They should start the day later in the morning so that they can give the office-workers a second chance to shop by staying open until he finishes his day's work in the afternoon. Cinemas must adjust the timing of all their day's programmes so that those persons attending the last performance at night can be in bed by 11.15 at the latest. The objection that employed persons ought to attend the earlier performance is not valid, since many of them have to put their children to bed before they can leave the house.

Above all, standardization is needed so that, for example, all shops should observe the same hours and all other services (banks, repair shops etc.) should be similarly consistent. Individuals and organizations alike can benefit if hours of work are planned so as to suit the greatest interest of the greatest number.

Yesterday's Press

Settlements Need Doctors

"AL Hamishmar" (Mapam) criticizes the decision at the physicians' conference not to oblige young doctors to serve in outlying settlements and says that no country in the world, much less Israel, can afford absence of planning in this field. The result is insufficient medical service in border areas. The paper says that it is surprised that the Minister of Health, a staunch supporter of private enterprise in other fields, wants to "nationalize" Kupat Holim as soon as possible. Under present conditions this would not be a victory for public medicine, but a victory for the "private sector." After the victory of "liberalization" and resultant anarchy in our national economy, the General Zionists want to bring about a similar state of affairs in health services. The paper expresses the view that the only way to improve health services is to strengthen public medicine.

"Davar" (Histadrut) comments on the concerted attack by the afternoon press against "new taxes," and says it is astonishing that the organs of the right wing have forgotten in the heat of their attacks against a new "bathing tax," that this tax already exists and has until now been collected by municipalities. The paper demands a more mature attitude in view of the Treasury's difficulties, the discontinuing of the staging of hysterical fits and a common effort to get the means necessary to maintain all state services.

On the other hand "Haboker" (General Zionist) continues to belabour the "bathing tax" and says that it is "typical of Mapai's primitive logic to impose taxes on popular commodities." The paper says that the Treasury has now had to backtrack on taxes on bathing, flowers and newspaper advertising (all three would have brought an estimated income of IL.200,000, but the idea tends to show what life would be under a "workers government"!)

Trade with Turkey

"Zmanim" (Progressive) deals in its editorial with recent difficulties in Israel's trade relations with Turkey, caused by Turkey's inability to sell wheat for $10m. this year. This means that Israel will have to continue exporting without receiving an immediate return. But from here to a stop on exports is a far cry, and obstacles to trade between the two countries have been wildly exaggerated.

"Hatzofe" (World Mizrahi Union) comments on the debate on Suez in the Security Council and, in a second leader, supports the proposals arrived at by arbitration to restrict the desecration of the Sabbath in the Capital. "Lamerhav" (Ahdut Ha'Avoda) praises Mr. Richard Crossman's activity as a left-wing Labour leader but rejects his proposals for the Gaza strip (establishment of a Western military base). "Lamerhav" says such a base would constitute a grave danger to Israel independence and security.

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